

Speeches

delivered by

His Excellency

Sir Hugh Stephenson, K.C.S.I., C.S.I., I.C.S.,

Acting Governor of Bengal

and

His Excellency

Colonel the Right Hon'ble

Sir Francis Stanley Jackson, P.C., G.C.I.E.,

Governor of Bengal

during

1930-31.

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***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Address at the Special Convocation of
the Calcutta University on 5th August
1930, on the occasion of conferring the
Degree of Doctor of Law Honoris Causa
on Dr. W. S. Urquhart.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

This is the second occasion on which I have as Chancellor presided at your Convocation and on both occasions it has been my pleasant task to express on your behalf our sense of the valuable services rendered to the University by the retiring Vice-Chancellor by conferring on him at your request the Degree of Doctor of Law in accordance with the provisions of the Act, which enable the University to bestow this signal mark of honour on those who by reason of eminent position and attainments are deemed fit and proper persons to receive such degrees.

It is unnecessary for me in Calcutta to dilate upon the great services to education generally that Dr. Urquhart has rendered. He is one of a long chain of devoted Scotsmen who for over a century have earned the gratitude of thousands in this country to whom they have brought the lamp of learning and he has proved himself a worthy member of that company that contains such great names as Dr. Miller and Dr. Duff. It was in the Duff College that Dr. Urquhart started 27 years ago as Professor of Philosophy, but my personal acquaintance with his work has been in the Scottish Churches College of which he is now Principal and which is I understand henceforth to be known as the Scottish Church

College, in recognition of the happy union of the two great Churches in his home country. But to-day it is his work in the University that is mostly in our minds. He has been a member of the Syndicate for the last 14 years and has devoted ungrudgingly his time and energies to the service of the University. He has assisted in the work of most of the important Committees of the Senatè or Syndicate during a transition period that has been full of anxieties for the University, and he has served also as Dean of the Faculty of Arts. I think perhaps his successors will regard his work for the reorganisation of the University as being his most signal service. He took a leading part in the Reorganisation Committee of 1925 which held no less than 80 meetings, he was then one of a small minority which was unable to subscribe to some of the main recommendations of that Committee. But time has justified him and in the recent Reorganisation Committee, I understand, he has succeeded in convincing the University of the wisdom of much that he stood for in 1925, and it has fallen to him as Vice-Chancellor to prepare the way for the carrying out of these recommendations.

But we cannot be content merely to recite Dr. Urquhart's qualifications as an educationalist. It is largely because of our admiration for his qualities as a man that we are moved to confer this honour upon him. When last year as Chancellor of the Patna University, with the consciousness of a very difficult time in front of our students, I was looking for some one to address the Convocation who could appreciate their difficulties, have sympathy with their aspirations and teach them

the true meaning of the highest education as applied to modern life, my choice fell at once on Dr. Urquhart. His sympathy and insight are recognised by all and there is no danger that the independence of his views will ever be misunderstood. He has taken charge of the principalship of his College and he has been Vice-Chancellor at a time which is full of anxiety to all who have the true interests of education at heart; he has met with disappointments that must have pained him deeply but he has still the reward of his devoted labours in the fixed knowledge that he has won the unwavering love and respect of his students and his colleagues. I wish as Chancellor to thank you, Dr. Urquhart, for your unselfish and unsparing labour on behalf of the University. I trust that you may long be spared to help us with your experience and mature wisdom. In the name of the University of Calcutta also I congratulate you on the well-merited distinction which it is now my duty to confer upon you.

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Speech on the occasion of unveiling
the portrait of Hon'ble Raja Sir Man-
matha Nath Roy Chaudhuri, President,
Legislative Council, at the 'Council
Chamber, Town Hall, on 21st August
1930.***

MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BENGAL
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

It was a great pleasure to me to be asked to unveil the portrait of your President and I welcomed the opportunity it gave me of reviving my memories of the past and renewing my friendship with many of you who share those memories. I was a member of the Bengal Council practically continuously from the time in 1910 when I introduced the Calcutta Improvement Act to the time when I made my last appearance in your midst in 1926 to prorogue the Council prior to its dissolution. On that occasion I took, as I thought, my last farewell of Bengal after 31 years' sojourn in it, but fortune has brought me back to renew my connection with Bengal for a brief while and I am glad that I have the chance of taking part again on so friendly an occasion in the proceedings of your House. I believe this is the last session you will hold within these walls, and though your new home will be the envy of other provinces and will be the scene under new circumstances of devoted labours crowned, I am confident, with success for the welfare of Bengal, it is perhaps fitting that the last function I attend in the House should be here

where our eyes turn naturally to the past, the distance travelled, the fights well-fought and the achievements won.

Not the least of such achievements has been the building up of parliamentary life and we owe a debt of gratitude to our successive Presidents who have borne so large a part in that work. We have met this afternoon in recognition of this debt. The portrait I am about to unveil has been subscribed for by members of all parties in the House and is convincing testimony of the success of Raja Sir Manmatha Nath Roy Chaudhuri in his difficult office. The ideal President is the friend of all the House; we demand from him endless patience and infinite courtesy and tact; he must know how on occasions to be deaf and blind, but he must equally be able to recognise when the situation demands quick decision and firm handling. He must be able to gauge by intuition and experience the feelings of the House and he must be single minded in his resolve to maintain the dignity of the House of which he is custodian. I can claim the friendship of Sir Manmatha Nath for many years and I never doubted that he would prove that he possessed all these qualities. He is typical of all that is best in the aristocracy of Bengal; he is a man of wide interests and culture and his literary attainments have been widely recognised. He has thrice been returned as the representative of the landholders of the Dacca Division, and as a member of the Council was a close student of its procedure and acquired a wide grasp of parliamentary practice. He was elected President in 1926 and you showed your confidence in him personally and your recognition of his

ability by unanimously re-electing him last year. Perhaps an even more striking proof of the affection and respect in which he is held is to be found in the tributes that were paid to him from all shades of opinion when the dignity of Knighthood was conferred upon him, and I am glad to take this opportunity of adding my appreciation of an Honour so well deserved and so pleasing to the House.

I am a firm believer in the influence of surroundings and I think it is right and proper that this Council should have in its midst the portraits of those who have borne a large part in shaping its destinies. I therefore accept with great pleasure, on behalf of the Council, this portrait which the subscribers have offered and I will now proceed to unveil it.

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Speech at the Dacca University Convo-
cation on 26th August 1930.***

MR. VICE-CHANCELLOR AND GENTLEMEN—

I little thought, when four years ago I stood in this place as your acting Chancellor, that I should ever again visit Dacca: I am, therefore, the more happy that the chances of official life have once more given me an opportunity to see for myself the progress which is being made by this young but exceedingly virile University.

On that occasion I welcomed Mr. Langley on his appointment to the Vice-Chancellorship of the University and I then ventured to express my confidence that, with the co-operation and sympathy of his colleagues, he would discharge his responsible duties in a manner which would serve the best interests of the University. I am glad to find that my prediction on that occasion has been fully realised: I trust that Mr. Langley will be long among you to carry on his valuable work for the University.

I also congratulated the University on the decision to undertake the construction of the Moslem Hall—a project which had been under consideration since 1920. I am happy to see that the Hall is now nearing completion. I hope it may be found possible to open it for occupation during the forthcoming cold weather. It is a building of which any University might justly be proud.

I have listened with great interest to the report which the Vice-Chancellor has just read. I find in it much that is encouraging. The University is to be congratulated upon the fact that a former member of its Executive Council, in the person of the Hon'ble Mr. K. Nazimuddin, has taken office as Minister of Education. While we realise that he must follow the path of strict impartiality among the many conflicting interests that beset him, and that Dacca University is but one of the institutions which look to him for support, we have the satisfaction of knowing that matters affecting our University will be dealt with by one who, in the past, has acquired a knowledge of, and evinced a sympathy with, our needs.

I welcome the increase reported by the Vice-Chancellor of students reading for Honours and the degree of Master of Arts. The increase in the number, both of students and of the teaching staff, devoting themselves to research work, and the desire of the University to make research a feature of every department, are most encouraging proofs that the University is conscious that its responsibilities extend as much to the increase as to the diffusion of knowledge. A healthy sign pointing in the same direction is the fact that former scholars of the University—like Dr. Moazzam Hossain—who have obtained research degrees in Europe are returning to take up teaching posts in the University. I regret that, when you have yourselves displayed a proper appreciation of the value, even from a commercial point of view, of research, especially of research carried out in collaboration with such bodies as the Imperial Council of

Agricultural Research, it has not yet been found possible for Government to allot funds for the establishment of the projected Department of Botany and Bacteriology. The natural advantages which Dacca offers for an enterprise of this kind, its position and climate, the proximity of the headquarters of the Provincial Department of Agriculture, the preponderance of agriculturists among your population, are fully realised, and it is due, as your Chancellor told you last year, to financial stringency alone that effect has not yet been given to a proposal on the merits of which all are agreed. And since your Chancellor last addressed you, the financial position, as you must be well aware, has not improved. The world-wide trade depression has had its effect on the revenues of Bengal, and this effect has been intensified by the insane action of those who have preached civil disobedience; the unrest and lawlessness which have resulted from this action have involved a very large increase in the expenditure necessary to maintain law and order, and this expenditure can only be met from the already inadequate funds which we have been able hitherto to devote to education and other nation-building activities.

In the course of the movement to which I have just referred a sinister attack has been made on the whole fabric of education in India. I do not propose to touch upon the question of the proper relationship of students to politics, but every thinking man must agree that an attempt to stop the whole course of education, both in schools and colleges, is a deliberate and wicked attack on the intellectual life of the coming generation. That attempt has

been made, relying partly on appeals to sentiment, but mainly on intimidation, both moral and physical. But I am glad to say that in Dacca, as in Bengal, generally it has failed, mainly owing to the recognition by both guardians and students of the essential selfishness of its promoters in attempting to sacrifice the future of the nation to the immediate necessities of their propaganda. I look to both guardians and students to prevent the attempt being made again: it lies in their hands; if they will show clearly that they are determined not to be sacrificed, the attempt will not be renewed. We have not come out unscathed, and I offer my sincere sympathy with the relatives of the youth who would still have been with us to-day if this insidious attack upon education has passed Dacca by.

I do not wish to keep you any longer from the real Convocation address. Sir Shah Muhammad Sulaiman needs no introduction to you. Whether as a graduate of Cambridge and of Dublin Universities, as a Judge of the High Court of Allahabad, or ex-Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh University, he is welcome in our midst, and before he addresses you I only desire to convey my personal congratulations to those on whom the University has to-day conferred degrees and my sincere good wishes for their future in the life that is now opening before them.

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Speech at the Durbar held at Dacca on
27th August 1930.***

GENTLEMEN,

On the last occasion that I had the privilege of holding a Durbar in Dacca in 1926, I felt it incumbent on me to depart from the usual practice and to take the opportunity the Durbar offered to me of addressing an appeal through you to the people of Bengal. I deeply deplore the fact that my second visit to Dacca as acting Governor has been marred by the recurrence of those same communal passions which tore Bengal in 1926, resulting in similar acts of savagery with their train of misery and hate. But this year I am thankful that the shame rests on Dacca alone and the rest of Bengal has been spared. I have no desire to apportion blame; my only wish is to ensure peace. I know that many of you have honestly felt that Government and its officers have not held the scales even in these disturbances. The same charge was levelled in 1926 and in this Durbar I denied it unequivocally on behalf of Government. My experience of that year, when I was in close touch with the leaders on both sides and with events as they were happening, has taught me that when communal passions are roused, men's visions become distorted and their sense of proportion is awry. They see things not as they are, but blurred by their own passions and coloured by their communal suspicions. Incidents, trivial in themselves, are given a sinister interpretation and words, which

are immediately forgotten by the speakers, are treasured as irrefutable proof of a deep-laid policy. Members of each community have given to me accounts of the same incident as they saw it and they honestly believed that they were telling me the truth and nothing but the truth; the accounts were diametrically opposite and neither of them represented what had actually happened. But I realised the depth of feeling that had been roused not only in Dacca but elsewhere by these suspicions, and Government decided to appoint a Committee of the highest revenue authority in the Province and a High Court Judge unconnected with the Province to hold an open enquiry in Dacca as to what had actually occurred. The Committee have submitted their report which has just been published; I have seen it and it gives no support whatever to the charge that officers of Government have allowed themselves to be deflected by a hand's breadth from the path of impartiality in carrying out their duties. As for Government, I repeat the declaration I made in 1926 that we are determined to put down disorder wherever it occurs or whoever occasions it, with the strictest impartiality. But we are most of all anxious that disorder shall not arise, and I appeal to the citizens of Dacca, without exception, to mobilise all their resources to bring about a lasting peace. I gratefully acknowledge that many of you have worked nobly in the cause of peace and have made sacrifices and run risks to that end. But your efforts will be useless while others allow feelings of rancour to neutralise your work, while mutual recriminations hold the field, while boycott and petty retaliations are allowed to keep the sore open

and irritate it to a fresh outburst. I earnestly appeal to both communities to forget the past and work for mutual trust and good fellowship in the future.

Unfortunately in this year communal outbreaks are not the only danger we have to meet. An attempt has been made to organise mass action to prevent Government from functioning and to break the bonds of law which keep society together. It is the primary duty of Government to defeat this attempt; this duty we shall carry out, but in the process suffering and loss are inevitable which cannot be confined to those who are responsible for the disorder. I think Government have a right to call on all good citizens for their assistance in minimising this loss and injury by setting their faces sternly against this movement of civil disobedience; it cannot live if you are determined that it shall die. India is suffering from world trade conditions and the agriculturists of Eastern Bengal will need all the help and sympathy we can give them. Constitutional changes are on the anvil which will inevitably lay upon the people of Bengal a very heavy responsibility for their own prosperity. Surely the path of wisdom is to get rid of this incubus of civil disobedience, with its poison of intimidation and racial hatred, and settle down to meet our agricultural troubles and by united action help the Round Table Conference to hammer out the constitutional changes that are most in the interests of Bengal.

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Addresses to Title-holders who were
Invested at the Dacca Durbar on 27th
August 1930.***

**MAHAMAHOPADHYAYA PANDIT KALI KISHORE
SMRITIRATNA,**

An erudite Sanskrit scholar of the old school, you enjoy the reputation of being one of the best pandits in Smriti and a successful teacher. In spite of your advancing years you still support a large number of students in the tal in your house at a considerable pecuniary sacrifice. You are universally respected for your high character and extensive scholarship and I congratulate you on the distinction conferred upon you, which you richly deserve.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI MUHAMMAD MAULA BAKSH,

You have been a member of the Bengal Educational Service for the last 28 years and in recognition of your good work the title of Khan Sahib was bestowed upon you in 1925. Your abilities, impartiality and devotion to duty as an Inspecting Officer, your sound judgment and thorough knowledge of primary education have earned for you this promotion to the higher title.

KHAN BAHADUR SAIYID AHMAD BAKHT,

You have rendered valuable service to Government as an Honorary Magistrate in addition to your work as Muhammadan Marriage Registrar which in spite of your age you have performed efficiently.

You received the title of Khan Sahib in 1926 and by your continued good work you have well deserved the advancement to the higher distinction.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI DALILUDDIN AHMED,

After having faithfully served Government for 30 years you retired in 1925 as an Extra Assistant Commissioner, Assam. Since then you have devoted yourself to the service of the country in various capacities. As an Honorary Magistrate, an elected Municipal Commissioner, President of the Dacca District Moslem Association and Deputy Chairman of the Dacca Co-operative Bank, your work has been marked with ability and zeal. Putting to good use the high esteem in which you are held in your own community you materially helped Government in restoring order during the communal disturbance at Dacca in 1927. You have well merited the title conferred upon you.

RAI GURU PRASAD MITRA BAHADUR,

You received the title of Rai Sahib in 1927, and have since maintained your meritorious record as a teacher in the Dacca Medical School. You have well merited the higher title of Rai Bahadur.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI ABDUL KHALEQUE,

As Headmaster of the Dacca Moslem High School you have maintained a high standard in the school, and in recognition of your capable management thereof you have been awarded the title of Khan Sahib.

RAI SAHIB SURESH CHANDRA GUPTA,

You entered the Postal Department more than 26 years ago and by dint of merit have risen to the position of Deputy Postmaster-General. Your work throughout has been of a meritorious nature and you have proved yourself to be a loyal and devoted servant of Government.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI ABDUL LATIF CHAUDHURI,

You began your career as a Kanungo and by long and meritorious service in the Settlement and Khas Mahal Departments, have risen to your present position as Circle Officer. In addition to your ordinary duties, which have always been of a high standard, you have done excellent work for education, public health, the co-operative movement and agriculture including care of cattle. The High School at Matbaria in Bakarganj and the successful Central Bank are your creations. Your services have fully deserved recognition.

RAI SAHIB KASHISWAR CHAKRABATTI,

As a member of the Bengal Civil Service (Executive) you have rendered excellent service throughout your career. Your administration of the Bhola subdivision in Bakarganj has wrought a great change for the better there. Agitation has practically ceased, whilst education, particularly of girls, and the co-operative and Union Board movements have spread through your efforts. You have well merited the honour conferred upon you.

RAI SAHIB KRITANTA NATH BASU,

You gave strenuous support to the establishment of the Union Board system in the district of Bakarganj and took the lead in checking the wave of propaganda against it. You have worked indefatigably to make the Chāndsi Union Board a model to others. You have had several useful roads constructed in the Chāndsi Union and your work on behalf of Village Self-Government has well deserved recognition.

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Speech at the Police Parade, Dacca, on
28th August 1930.***

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE BENGAL POLICE AND
EASTERN FRONTIER RIFLES,

It is four years since I last addressed you when I paid my tribute of praise to your retiring Inspector-General, Mr. Simpson, whose recent death is a source of sorrow to his many friends and of regret to the police force of Bengal. That parade marked also the end of my long personal connection with the force; since then, though my interest in your fortunes has not ceased, I have been dependent on annual reports and such information as the newspapers give. You will not, therefore, expect me on this occasion to enter into a detailed examination of the working of the force during the past year or make the usual stocktaking for which this parade affords so suitable an opportunity. I can find no signs of any halt in the steady progress of the force and I congratulate you on the very necessary addition to your pay since I last addressed you. I trust that the progress in providing you with better buildings and other adjuncts to health, if still steady, may be a little quicker in the future, if the province can only succeed in shaking off the financial embarrassments which have so long clogged its prosperity.

Four years ago the province was in the grip of communal troubles which laid a heavy burden on the police, and I took the opportunity of

expressing my personal admiration and that of the public generally for the way the police met the strain, for their discipline and efficiency and for the cheerful way they bore the hardships that this work imposed on them in Pabna and elsewhere. Recently here in Dacca communal riots have again put an almost intolerable strain on many of you and I am glad of the opportunity of thanking you personally for your untiring devotion to duty and for the work you have done in putting down these riots; and I should like to add my appreciation of the services of those who came forward as special constables to help you in the exacting task. But communal riots this year have been a comparatively small part of the troubles of the police. Throughout the province an attempt has been made to bring Government to a standstill, to loosen the forces of disorder and to break the prestige of law, which is the only protection for the ordinary citizen. It is the police force of Bengal that has stood between its inhabitants and chaos. In Midnapore, in Mymensingh and Chittagong organised attempts have been made to bring about anarchy; in the rest of the province intimidation has been rife and the people have been urged to defy the law and to flout the authorities whose duty it is to enforce it. You have been subjected to harassment and insult, to persecutions and annoyances; many of you have been injured, some of your number have been murdered and all of you have been worked almost to the breaking point. I am proud of the record of the Bengal Police during this time of trial. Your loyalty has stood firm against all temptations; every officer has testified to the

unflinching courage, the unbroken discipline and the wonderful self-control the force, as a whole, has shown. We have tried to ease the strain as far as we can ; we have recruited 500 additional police and we have borrowed Frontier Rifles from Assam to which Government, we are greatly indebted for welcome help in time of need. At the instance of your Inspector-General we have given allowances to those engaged for more than 6 hours at a stretch on arduous work. The history of this year has raised the question whether our armed reserve, including the Frontier Rifles, are sufficient now for our normal needs and this question is under the consideration of Government. . But new recruits take time to train and it is on you that the heavy burden has fallen and I offer to you the thanks of Government and the people of Bengal for the magnificent way you have taken it up.

I fear that it will be long before the police regain their ascendancy over the ordinary criminal, established by long years of hard work and largely destroyed by the action of those who have launched civil disobedience. Dacoities have increased by large numbers and the record of ordinary crime has steadily mounted during these last few months while the energies of the police have perforce been diverted to meet the wanton attack on general peace and stability : when this attack has ceased, your crime work will start with a bad handicap in the general sense of lawlessness it has engendered. It is all the more necessary therefore that the public should give all the assistance they can and I gladly record my appreciation of the acts of those members of the public who are among the recipients of the

rewards I am about to present in recognition of good police work done.

I cannot conclude without expressing my abhorrence, shared, I am confident by all that is best in Bengal, at the dastardly attack made recently on Sir Charles Tegart. We are all thankful that so valuable a life has been providentially preserved.

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Address to the Recipients of King's
Police Medals at the Police Parade,
Dacca, on 28th August 1930..***

BABU UPENDRA NATH DATTA,

You entered the Bengal Police in 1907 and have attained the rank of officiating Inspector, Intelligence Branch, Criminal Investigation Department. Throughout your service you have shown marked ability in detective and secret work and have always carried out your duties at great personal risk.

ABDUS SUBHAN,

You enlisted in 1922 and are now an officiating Assistant Sub-Inspector. On the evening of 8th October 1928, a country boat proceeding from Shahzadpur capsized in a storm. You were at that time returning by boat from the mufassal. On hearing cries for help you made for the place and found an old man in imminent danger of drowning. You jumped into the river at once and succeeded in bringing him to your boat where you applied the necessary first aid.

MUHAMMAD DIN KHAN,

You enlisted as a constable in 1923. On the 24th December 1928, while on platform duty at Khulna station on the Eastern Bengal Railway, you saw a deaf and short-sighted old man wandering across the railway line directly in front of an incoming train. When it was apparent that nothing less

could save him from being run over, you jumped on to the line at great personal risk and managed to get him out of the way in time.

RAJA RAM AHIR,

You enlisted in 1926. On the night of the 13th December 1928, during a police raid on a house in Khulna for the purpose of making an arrest, the accused, who was a dangerous proclaimed offender, came out armed with a sword and attacked the Inspector in charge. You courageously stood in front of the Inspector and saved him at the risk of your own life, even though you were yourself wounded, thereby displaying considerable courage and devotion to duty.

**MR. B. F. CARROL AND MR. F. WOODHOUSE, OF THE
BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY BATTALION.**

They did excellent work in connection with the detection of the bomb case and the arrest of the accused, while acting in the capacity of members of the Auxiliary Force.

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Speech at the opening of the Union
Board Conference at Dacca on 30th
August 1930.***

GENTLEMEN,

It is with very genuine pleasure that I have come here this morning to open your conference. At a time when others doubted, I never concealed my wholehearted belief in the value of the Village Self-Government Act and of the opportunities which it offers. At first, as many of you will remember, the Act, though sponsored by no less a patriot than Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, was viewed with considerable suspicion, and much opposition was encountered to its successive extensions to different localities. This was due largely to misunderstandings about the Act, and more particularly to fears that the introduction of the union board system would only lead to increased taxation. It was not always fully appreciated at the outset that such additional taxation would be purely voluntary and self-imposed, and that the power to meet purely local needs by the imposition of local taxation was a boon, not an evil. That was the position when the Act first came into force, and to some extent it was still the position when I left Bengal four years ago. It is, therefore, peculiarly interesting and encouraging to me to find how firmly the union board system has rooted itself in the province during the intervening four years. If now I were

to explain that the fears entertained about the Act were groundless, I should be preaching to the converted. So completely are the people of the Dacca district satisfied regarding the benefits to be derived from the Act that there are, so the District Magistrate informs me, only nine of the old panchayeti unions left in the district and proposals for the replacement of these also are now awaiting the sanction of Government.

And what is true of Dacca district to-day will to-morrow be true of the province as a whole. Already there are over four thousand union boards in Bengal, handling more than seventy lakhs of rupees. In the 36,000 elected members and the electorate of two-and-a-quarter millions of voters, you have, it seems to me, the foundation and the training ground of true democracy in Bengal.

But the grounds for satisfaction are not confined to a consideration of the mere extension of the movement. I am very glad to find that there is a growing appreciation of the opportunities afforded by the Act. Here in Dacca district alone last year, over and above what I may, perhaps, term the minimum calls on union board funds—the charges for chaukidars and establishment—you have spent another 50 per cent. on works of public utility—union board roads, dispensaries, education, public health—and the sum so expended is steadily increasing. There could not be more convincing testimony to the value of the Act or to the public appreciation of it. In Dacca district at all events the fact is clearly grasped that the union board is not merely a machinery for the collection of chaukidari tax but an institution possessed of great

possibilities for Self-Government and local development.

I do not propose to comment in detail on the interesting address to which we have just listened. Some of the topics mentioned by my friend the Rai Bahadur pertain rather to the work of the district board, of which he is Chairman, while in his reference to rural health circles he has touched upon a subject which is shared by the district board and Medical Department of Government, the latter, as you know, bearing the entire cost of the "rural health" organisation. I am glad, however, to learn that the work of the rural health officers is so highly appreciated.

There are two topics mentioned by the Chairman and bearing more closely on the work of the union boards, to which I feel I must make some reference, however brief, before I leave you to your deliberations. Few passages in his address gave me greater satisfaction than his reference to the extension of union benches and union courts. This is, I realise, a matter in which it is the part of wisdom to hasten slowly: progress can only come with the growth of confidence, and that confidence can only be roused by proof of efficiency and impartiality in the rest of the work of the board. But I feel sure that, from the point of view of the ordinary man, *that* justice is best which is cheap, reasonably certain and expeditious: and it seems to me that the Act in providing for the establishment of union benches and union courts, is literally bringing justice to the doors of the people. It is for you to see that, that justice is pure and expeditious. At the same time an increase in litigation was no part of the aims

of those who framed the Act, and I am accordingly glad to find the District Judge giving it as his opinion that, of the 30,000 cases disposed of by union benches and courts last year, a considerable number represented work which formerly fell to the munsifs. The advantage to litigants and witnesses alike of this decentralisation of litigation from headquarters to local courts is too obvious to require elaboration.

The other subject on which I wish to touch is the Chairman's assurance that, in spite of difficulties in a year in which the district has been visited both by communal troubles and by the civil disobedience movement, the bulk of the union boards have remained comparatively unaffected. His optimism is justified by the small figures of resignation among the union board members. I am glad to see that in the first two resolutions on your agenda it is proposed to ask this conference to throw the weight of its authority on the side of communal peace and of perseverance in the working of the union board system. I do not wish to dwell this morning on a topic which should never have affected and does not properly affect Local Self-Government, but I would only ask you—surely the bankruptcy of the civil disobedience movement was never more plainly exposed than in the senseless attack which its leaders have launched—unsuccessfully, I am thankful to say—on the elective and self-governing institutions which you represent here this morning!

Conferences, such as this, in which you are gathered to-day, are always of value for the opportunities which they afford for friendly intercourse

and a pooling of ideas and experience between public-spirited gentlemen belonging to different communities and areas, but imbued with a common ideal of public service. They have a special value in times of difficulty like the present. Owing partly to world-wide depression and partly to more local conditions, we are faced, in Eastern Bengal particularly, with the prospect of very serious economic distress. This will, I fear, be your chief pre-occupation during the forthcoming months and your resources will be taxed to the uttermost to meet the situation. If, as a result of your deliberations here, each of you returns to his union heartened and encouraged to carry on the work of local administration, in the teeth, if need be, of a short-sighted and politically-inspired opposition, this conference will have justified itself, and we for our part shall have the satisfaction of knowing that in this part of Eastern Bengal we have in existence a net-work of institutions ready to co-operate in any scheme of amelioration which Government or the district board may deem necessary to meet the situation.

Now, gentlemen, you have a long and interesting agenda before you and it would not be fair for me to keep you longer from attacking it. I am only sorry that the unavoidable brevity of my visit to Dacca has precluded me from paying that visit of personal inspection to one of your boards which ordinarily forms so pleasant an interlude in the Governor's visit to Dacca. I congratulate you, gentlemen, on the work accomplished during the past year: especially do I congratulate those to

whom it has been my pleasant task to distribute rewards this morning. I am sure that with industry and good-will your deliberations will prove fruitful of much good for the areas which you represent and in that hope I now formally declare this conference open.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening
of the Conference of District Board
Chairmen at Government House,
Darjeeling, on 14th October 1930.***

MR. FAROQUI AND GENTLEMEN,

Three years ago I had the privilege of meeting the Chairmen of the District Boards of Bengal and I am pleased to have this opportunity of welcoming you here to-day and to attend your Conference. The District Board is the most important link in the chain of institutions by which the local self-government of the Province is carried on. I can say without fear of contradiction that the strength of the link depends to a great extent upon the Chairmen. The energy and capacity and self-sacrifice with which the Chairmen in general have carried out their work is a matter of much satisfaction and appreciation by Government. Since we last met in Calcutta in 1927, I have visited almost all the districts represented here to-day and I have been enabled not only to make a better acquaintance with most of you personally, but also to acquire a closer insight into the problems with which you have to deal and the difficulties that beset you in the public-spirited work to which you so generously devote yourselves.

I attach the greatest importance to a Conference of this kind. Not only does it provide a very useful opportunity for friendly intercourse and the exchange of ideas and experience as between representatives drawn from different communities and areas, but imbued with a common ideal of public service, but it also serves to maintain that

close connection between the Provincial Government and the local bodies which is so necessary for the efficient working of both. It is over ten years now since the policy of substituting elected non-officials for District Magistrates as Chairmen of local bodies was introduced in the Province. The effect of this policy on the progress of local self-government and the success with which District Board affairs have on the whole been administered under non-official Chairmanship is one of the most interesting and hopeful features of political development in Bengal during the last decade.

The main object for which you have been called together on this occasion is to deliberate and to advise regarding the amendment of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act. That Act was passed as long ago as 1885 and it would be surprising if after 45 years it was not in need of drastic amendment. I believe it is generally admitted that in many respects it is defective and unsuited to present-day conditions and I am sure that the Hon'ble Minister will welcome any advice which your experience of the working of the Act prompts you to give after due deliberation. Government are satisfied that the time has come when in the general interest the Act should be carefully reviewed with the object of amendment founded upon experience and the obvious requirements of progressive local administration. I am confident that your discussions will be of value in the drafting of such legislation.

Officially the business of the Conference will be confined to this question of amending the law under which your Boards are constituted, but in what I have to say to you this morning, I do not propose

to touch upon matters of detail, which can be more fittingly and effectively dealt with by your Chairman. I would rather take the opportunity now afforded me to refer to what I regard as not the least important aspect of Local Government, namely, the relationship between Government and local administrations.

I have already said that I welcome this Conference for the opportunity which it affords for co-operation between Government and the local bodies in the work with which both are directly concerned. While it was inevitable and, if local government was to be self-government, desirable that the replacement of the official and nominated by the non-official and elected Chairman should mean a relaxation of control by Government in the details of administration by the local bodies, it by no means follows that it is desirable that the District Board and the local representatives of Government should henceforth go each their separate way. The District Magistrate, who, in the administration of Local Self-Government affairs must be regarded largely as the Agent of the responsible Ministry, with his resources of information and administrative experience, should, if properly made use of, be of immense help to the local self-governing authority: and he in turn can derive much benefit in his task if the good-will and the local knowledge of the District Board Chairman are at his command. It was, therefore, a matter of great satisfaction to me to see it stated in the Resolution on the Working of District Boards for 1928-29, that in a vast majority of the districts of this Province "the Chairmen of District Boards have established a friendly *entente*

with the district authorities and work in co-operation with them." This is only as it should be, and I am confident that such co-operation is for the benefit alike of the Chairmen, the district authorities and, what is of course the paramount consideration, the districts themselves.

Leaving aside, however, the district officers and their relations with local self-governing bodies, there is the more difficult subject—the relations between the Ministry for Local Self-Government and the local bodies. In this connection I cannot refrain from quoting a passage which shows how the matter has struck a body of impartial inquirers who recently had occasion to examine the question. Speaking first of conditions in Great Britain they say:—"The present state of efficiency of local government administration in Great Britain has been largely due to an ever-increasing pressure by the departments of the Central Government..... Indeed, the history of local government in Great Britain during the nineteenth century might be described from one angle as the steady invasion by the Central Government of a sphere formerly left entirely to local authorities. No picture of British local self-government could be more false than that which depicts the local authorities as enjoying the largest possible independence of outside control." And they then go on to say that "to those accustomed to the very real influence exercised over local bodies in England, not only by way of punishment and correction, but by advice and encouragement, this mistaken idea of freedom from Provincial control appears to have had the most unfortunate results in India." They describe as a "grave error"

the failure to realise the need for control by Provincial Governments, and conclude by saying that "there should surely be little ground for resentment when control is exercised by a responsible Minister." That, gentlemen, is how the matter appealed to the Statutory Commission: and if, as seems not improbable, the next instalment of reforms brings with it "responsible government" in the Province, there would seem to be the less cause for complaint by local bodies on the score of provisions enabling the local government to exert, through the Minister and the Department, some of those powers of help, guidance and co-ordination which local bodies are entitled to expect from Government and which in the past were secured through the agency of official Chairmen. Both authorities—the local body and the Central Department—have the same end in view: it is by the pooling of information and experience and by the co-ordination of effort, which a central authority like the Local Self-Government Department can alone supply, that economy of working and real progress for the betterment of the districts can be achieved. If in those constantly expanding activities which so closely concern the welfare of the people, such for example as education and the establishment of rural health circles, District Boards expect, and receive, substantial monetary aid from Government, it is an obligation upon Government, in the administration of the activities so financed from public funds, to take power to exert an effective control, by the requirement on the one hand that the guidance offered by the Department shall be accepted and acted upon, and by the effective audit, on the other hand, of the accounts through which such funds pass.

Before leaving you to your deliberations, I cannot refrain from touching, however briefly, upon one other subject. I am aware that the question of amending the Village Self-Government Act lies outside the scope of your agenda, and indeed I am not so much concerned with the amending of that Act as with the implementing of the policy enshrined in it. With their thirty-six thousand members and their twenty-three lakhs of voters the Union Boards are, I am convinced, the foundation and the training ground of Local Self-Government—indeed of real democracy—in Bengal.

Not only do they serve to inculcate in the minds of the rural population the truth that under a democratic system of Government every area gets the Government which it deserves and the amenities for which it is willing to pay, but there can also be no doubt that, speaking generally, these Boards are making themselves responsible for a large and increasing volume of works of public utility, to the great benefit of the areas which their activities serve. There will always be scope for the District Boards in working out and financing the larger projects which are beyond the means of Union Boards to tackle and in performing, in respect of Union Board activities, those duties of supervision and co-ordination which Government performs in respect of the District Boards themselves: but in the host of small matters which affect the inhabitants of particular localities, the Union Boards must in time assume a great part of the responsibilities which now rest upon the District Boards, and the transfer, though it will come but gradually.

will not only be for the benefit of the people affected, but will also enable the District Boards to concentrate on the spheres of activity which are most directly their's. You, gentlemen, as Chairmen of your respective District Boards, have it in your power to encourage the development of the Union Boards under your control. As an institution they have come to stay. I would ask you to help them to attain the full measure of their usefulness.

These are difficult times, and a feeling that we are passing through a transition period is likely to cause hesitation due to uncertainty and speculation as to the future. But whatever the future has in store in the shape of a revised and advanced constitution for the Provincial Government, you, in your administration of Local Self-Government, can proceed without hesitation. I cannot conceive that any alteration in the constitution—Central or Provincial—is likely to be forthcoming in the near future which could to any great extent change the form of your work or lessen your responsibilities. Your work is exacting and demands not only some sacrifice of time and personal convenience, but in these times, I fear, some courage and self-control to meet and surmount the obstacles which are deliberately placed in your path. You may, however, be fortified in your determination to continue your good work by the knowledge that your services are in the truest interests of the people entrusted to your care. I am aware that an attack has been made, and may be repeated, on the democratic institutions which you represent and on the lesser bodies under your care. As the elected Chairmen of popularly elected bodies you can never

sympathise with any movement which would seek to profess to establish democratic rule by the subversion of the most democratic bodies in the country.

I am sorry I cannot stay to listen to your discussions this morning, but I shall await with interest the report which I shall receive and I feel quite confident that the result of your deliberations will prove beneficial.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening
of the Jalpaiguri Medical School, on
29th October 1930.***

MR. NAZIMUDDIN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The opening of this School, and of a similar School this year at Chittagong marks the completion of the scheme undertaken by Government in 1921 in response to public demand of providing at least one medical school in each Division of the Province. And on looking back through the records I find that it was as long ago as 1921 that my predecessor, Lord Ronaldshay, promised that the Medical School for the Rajshahi Division should be erected at Jalpaiguri. Some idea of what has been accomplished since then to bring the scheme to completion, so far as Jalpaiguri is concerned, may be gathered from the interesting report which we have just heard-read. I observe that out of a capital expenditure of about three and three-fourths lakhs of rupees, about two lakhs has been found by Government, and the sum of one and three-fourths lakhs has been raised locally to satisfy the preliminary conditions which Government were obliged to impose. I have studied with interest the list of the principal contributors, and I am glad to see the admirable lead given by the Jalpaiguri District Board in this matter of finance—an example generously followed by the European tea-gardens, with their self-imposed levy, by Indian tea-gardens, the Bengal Dooars Railway, the Jotedars of Jalpaiguri district and by other donors, public and private.

My experience, however, of projects of this kind has taught me that local generosity even where, as

here, it exists in full measure has to be stimulated and organised before its fruits are made available. In this connection you have been fortunate in having in my friend the Nawab Sahib, one who, officially as Minister and privately from his own pocket, has given unstinted support to the project. With his name must be linked those of your energetic District Board Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Babu Joy, Govinda Guha and Babu Bipulendra Bannerjee, who have from the outset devoted themselves whole-heartedly to the furtherance of the scheme. There are others, officials and non-officials, whose names I should like to recite, such as Babu Jogesh Chandra Ghosh and Babu Ramdin Doga, who made handsome contributions and the Deputy Commissioners who from time to time have presided over the Committee, but at this hour I must confine myself to the mention of one more name only, a name characteristically omitted from the Report which Mr. Travers has read,—I refer of course to Mr. Travers himself. Mr. Travers has not only given a donation of Rs. 4,000 to the funds, but has been, I know, indefatigable in his efforts to ensure the success of the scheme.

Your Medical School will stand as a lasting memorial to the successful and harmonious co-operation of many individuals and bodies who have in one way or another contributed to it. And now that you have got it, I hope that every effort will be made to ensure its efficiency and its success. The efficiency of a Medical School is, perhaps, primarily a matter for Government, but Government must claim your assistance towards this end. I suppose that, second only to its teaching staff, the most

important feature of a medical school is its hospital. It is there that the practical work is mostly done ; it is there that the realities of his teaching and reading are brought home to the student. You have extended your hospital to the size stipulated by Government, but I hope you will not allow your interest in it to stand still there. No hospital can be ranked as first class which has not an adequate nursing staff : I am told that in your hospital you have no nursing staff at all. Then again without an X-Ray apparatus no hospital now-a-days can be considered really up-to-date. And you should also have a well-organised "out-patients" department. These, ladies and gentlemen, are essentials for a hospital which a town like Jalpaiguri, the headquarters station of a Division, should possess. And the need for them is made the more urgent now that your hospital is to play a vital part in the training of students for the profession. You want your hospital to be equipped in a way that will give the students the best possible opportunities of fitting themselves to serve you and their fellow-men in this Division. You want it also to be an example—to set a standard at which other hospitals in the Division can aim and to which the students can themselves look for inspiration when they in turn have to organise and run small hospitals elsewhere. Your Hospital has been brought up to the minimum size required by Government. It needs improvement in the various ways I have suggested. I venture to appeal to the merchants and professional men in Jalpaiguri to do what they can to help in this matter.

The Vice-Chairman of the Committee has remarked in his Report that "the completion of this Medical School here at Jalpaiguri will indeed be a boon and a blessing to the people of the Rajshahi Division." I devoutly hope that this may prove to be the case: but I venture to think that whether it will be so or not will depend very largely on two factors,—the willingness of the medical men turned out from this school to go further afield than this town, or Calcutta or Dacca or even their own district headquarters town: and the willingness of the people of the division to support them and enable them to earn a living. So far as the latter goes, I must say that our experience in connection with the new medical schools has hitherto not been completely satisfactory—a fact which has been mainly due to lack of public support. There can be no doubt that Government were induced to embark on this scheme of setting up medical schools outside Calcutta,—where ordinarily the facilities for giving training are so much more readily available,—by the hope that *local* men *locally* trained would be more ready and willing than Calcutta trained men to settle as doctors in their native villages. Your Committee, as we heard just now, was animated by the same idea,—its principal object, Mr. Travers has told us, was "the medical education of young men, the sons of Indian gentlemen who reside in Jalpaiguri and the other districts of the Division" who, it was hoped, would remain and practise in the Division and supply the needs of those malaria-ridden areas which so badly need medical assistance. In time, no doubt, the over-crowding of the profession in the

towns will tend to turn young doctors of their own accord in the direction of the villages, but at present we must face the fact that the villages are not ready to pay for the services of medical practitioners trained on Western lines, and some way must be found to enable the young men trained in this school to attain the object which we all have at heart. In the meantime I am glad to think that some at least of the students, who will get their training here will be absorbed by the tea-gardens. You are fortunate in having this outlet for your students. The medical school will, I hope, provide a stream of doctors with at least a Sub-Assistant Surgeon's qualifications, and these should be readily available for posts in the tea-gardens. But to return to my original topic,—the tea-gardens will not absorb the whole output from this school,—nor is it the intention that they should do so: and ways must be found of attracting the students who pass out from here to the countryside and to the small towns of the division. I confess I see no ready-made solution: much depends on the spirit of the students, the encouragement of local gentlemen and the education of the people.

It has given me great pleasure to come here to-day with Lady Jackson to open this School and I thank you for the welcome you have given us. You have been good enough to suggest that the school shall bear my name and I greatly appreciate the honour you do me. I shall watch the progress of this school with interest and some hope. I shall also be happy to help the School in any way that I can and I should like to give you some practical encouragement. I have consulted your

Civil Surgeon and he tells me that there is an urgent need for an autoclave and incubator for the culture of vaccines for the use of the students in the clinical room of the Hospital. I shall be pleased to give you a sum of Rs. 1,000 for this purpose.

And now it is my privilege to proceed to declare the Jackson Medical School open and I do so with the warmest good wishes for the School, its Staff and Students, and the success of the beneficent work which will be carried on in it.

***His Excellency's reply to the toast
"The Chairman" at the Armistice Day
Dinner on 11th November 1930.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very grateful to you, Colonel Banks, for the kindly terms in which you have proposed my health, and you, gentlemen, for the generous manner in which you have received it. You, Colonel Banks, recited some qualities which you were kind enough to suggest that I possess which might assist me to carry out the responsibilities which my position entails. From experience I am inclined to think that the man is yet to be born who will admit that he is armed with all the qualities necessary to carry out the task of the Governor of Bengal to everybody's satisfaction.

I thought I noticed in Colonel Bank's speech a touch of both pessimism and optimism. He referred to the depressing conditions prevailing in trade which I understand have for once in a way somewhat interfered with the normal prosperity we have been used to in Calcutta. He pictured the conditions as resembling—"the retreat of March 1918." I do not like the word "retreat," especially in these times, and I would venture to substitute "a strategical retirement to the reserve trenches" from which, I feel quite sure, we will soon emerge and go rapidly forward towards renewed prosperity. However, I like the note of optimism at the end of his remarks and I can only

assure you that I will do my best to help you to keep the flag flying.

I must take the opportunity of expressing appreciation on your behalf for the excellent arrangements at this dinner and to thank on your behalf all those responsible. I may, perhaps, especially mention Colonel Banks and your Secretary, Mr. Kilgour, to whose efforts the success of the evening I feel is mainly due.

***His Excellency's Speech in proposing
the toast of "His Majesty's Forces"
at the Armistice Day Dinner on 11th
November 1930.***

GENTLEMEN,

The toast of His Majesty's Forces which I now have the honour to propose, rightly occupies a prominent place in the toast list at such a gathering as this. I feel that this toast needs almost as little commendation from the proposer as the Royal toast itself, though I am urged to say something on this occasion if only out of deference to our distinguished friend who is to respond to the toast and also to give expression to our gratitude and admiration for the part His Majesty's Forces have played in the history of the British Empire, and for the part they still play to-day in maintaining peace and security within its borders.

In proposing the toast last year, I referred to the comprehensive nature of the toast, embracing as it does every sailor, soldier and airman of the King-Emperor throughout the Empire. It is well that we should remember this and that in honouring the toast our comrades in arms in all Nations composing the British Empire are included.

The war enabled us to realise, as we had not done before, the great variety of those who could claim to be ranked amongst His Majesty's Forces. Besides the Navy, Army, Air Force and Auxiliary Forces are the Mercantile Marine, the men on the Mine-sweepers and, by no means the least important,

the women, who in one way or other assisted in all branches of the service. We cannot do wrong even in these days of comparative peace by including them within this toast and I have no doubt they would all respond to duty's call if ever again necessity unfortunately should arise.

We, in this country, are passing through difficult times. There are no more trying or testing conditions for men of His Majesty's Forces than during a period when the country is in the throes of civil disturbance, especially when the trouble is of the kind that we have lately been experiencing in India. A soldier's training is not that of a policeman. If his intervention is called for, it should be when action of a definite and drastic kind is required. It speaks volumes for that part of their training which creates a sense of discipline and control that throughout the trouble, so far as I am aware, no mistake can be placed against the records of the Military Forces of the Crown. It is well known that persistent efforts have been made to seduce the soldiers of the Indian Army, mostly when on leave, or by pressure brought to bear on their families, to forget their calling and their duty, and to undermine their loyalty which has been their pride and the cause of admiration of us all. But they have definitely failed and I venture to think that this demonstrates to a remarkable degree the mutual respect, regard and confidence which exist between the British officers and their colleagues and the rank and file of the Indian Army. It is the spirit of the "officer and gentleman" which guides those responsible for the training and leading of Indian troops that gains their respect and trust

and when once this exists more often than not it ripens into a friendship and affection which is mutually treasured and which no intrigue can shake.

I am reminded, and I do not suppose that you have forgotten, that this is the third time in succession that I have proposed this toast. I think I have told you nearly all I know about His Majesty's Forces.

Conditions in the world do not appear to me to have changed so much since I proposed this toast last year as to cause me to alter the views which I then expressed. On that occasion I said that there appeared little justification, in view of the general conditions prevailing throughout the world, for the reduction of our Forces below the present position, having regard to our responsibilities and the conditions under which we have to bear them. Further attempts at limitation of armaments have not met with much success and it seems to me that now, as then, in the conditions at present prevailing throughout the world, we must be assured of adequate forces with which to meet our obligations and responsibilities.

We gather here on the evening of the day on which we fittingly celebrate the termination of the Great War. As years roll by the memories of those days grow more remote and less vivid, as our numbers also decrease. The main object of our gathering together on this occasion should be, I think, to meet as old comrades of the great adventure. And with the spirit of comradeship before us, I feel sure we can all appreciate the moving appeal which has been made by the Commander-in-Chief on behalf

of those comrades who have fallen upon bad times and who need assistance.

I am glad we have with us once again our friend, the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, Sir John Shea. No one can be more fitted than he to respond to the toast of His Majesty's Forces. Over 40 years' service gives him a claim to speak on their behalf which no one can dispute. His record of service is too well known to require any recitation of them by me. The high position he occupies to-day as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, is sufficient demonstration of tried capacity of which he has every reason to be proud. But what he can value most is the knowledge that he carries the respect and trust of all who serve under him.

His Excellency's Speech at the Distribution of Prizes to Winners of Swimming Competitions organized by the Aheeritollah Sporting Club, on 28th November 1930.

GENTLEMEN,

I am pleased to be able to be here this evening and to renew my acquaintance with the members of the Aheeritollah Sporting Club and to attend your entertainment, a very pleasant interlude in a strenuous life. The object of our gathering here on this occasion is to present prizes to the winners of the Swimming Competitions amongst whom is the winner of the 30-mile race, Mr. Chatterjee. I understand Mr. Chatterjee won this race before, and I wish to congratulate him upon his double success. It is a great feat to win this 30-mile race which needs exceptional powers of endurance and pluck. I congratulate him on winning the Stephenson Cup and other trophies which go with it. We hear much about the swimming of the English Channel, but save for the temperature of the water I should think Mr. Chatterjee would find this task mere child's play. It is very gratifying to me to attend and see Indians taking part in sports of one kind or another. They obviously have a great liking for games and have a natural aptitude which, with due perseverance and determination, should assure their success. I have had a long experience of all kinds of sports and I think this experience has enabled me to form a fairly accurate estimate of a player's capacity at most games and I am satisfied

that Indians can compete and hold their own in most kinds of sports, given the opportunities and efficient training. One thing I would advise and, that is, we should look upon games as games and avoid letting them get mixed up with other considerations. Games that are not played for the love of the game are not much good. I feel it as part of my duty to encourage sports and games in Bengal both in the general interest of physique and the improvement of the health of the young people: at the same time I know that a game well and truly played can impart lessons of self-control, perseverance and determination and a spirit of friendliness and goodwill which should prove of invaluable assistance in any walk one may find oneself in.

I have read the original objects for which your Club was founded. They are all excellent. I hope you will abide by them and then I feel sure that your Club will prosper. I must congratulate all the winners of prizes and also those who put up such a gallant struggle in the Races. I wish you all well and I shall watch your progress with interest and sympathy.

His Excellency's Speech at the St. Andrew's Dinner on 29th November 1930.

GENTLEMEN,

The privilege of responding to the toast of "The Guests" at the Caledonian Dinner has once again fallen to my lot. Your guests will, I know, wish me to thank you on their behalf, Mr. Laird, for the generous terms in which you have proposed this toast and you, Gentlemen, for the reception you have accorded to it. They will also desire me to assure you that they are not conscious of any shortcomings in the hospitality or welcome of the Scotsmen of Calcutta, as I trust you will believe there are none in the feelings of gratitude of your guests this evening. I must also thank you, Mr. Laird, for your kindly references to me personally. Your good wishes expressed in a dialect with which I am, I fear, imperfectly acquainted, are, I feel sure, entirely benevolent.

As is customary at the Caledonian Dinner, you are honoured by the presence of many distinguished guests—representative of Church and State, the Law, the Services and Commerce. We also welcome representatives of the Press. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing to them our admiration for the way in which they carry out their difficult task. The fair and fearless manner in which the "Statesman" endeavours to enlighten and inform public opinion in these times so full of complexity and doubt, is worthy of the best traditions of a great profession and assures the paper that position of eminence and repute it enjoys in India.

I am glad that it has fallen to Mr. Laird to propose the toast to which I am responding. Everybody knows Mr. Laird and we all much appreciate his acquaintance. Though of the shy and retiring disposition peculiar to his race, his progress in public life has been phenomenal and indicates that he can pull his weight! We know him as an able and successful Chairman of the Jute Mills Association, and, as Chairman of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, he has proved himself a worthy successor to those eminent businessmen who have occupied this responsible and honoured position in the past.

It occasionally happens that a situation arises upon which I would seek the advice of one whose special knowledge should be useful and upon whose judgment I feel I can rely. It has been my good fortune to consult Mr. Laird on several such occasions, when I have always received a straightforward opinion, which has been most helpful and for which I am very grateful.

I think it was at the first St. Andrew's Dinner I attended after I had arrived in Bengal, that the proposer of the toast to which I was to respond greatly encouraged me by the assurance of that sympathy and support of Scotsmen in the discharge of my duties, of which you have so kindly reassured me to-night. I would like to acknowledge now how generously that assurance has been carried out and to offer you my sincere gratitude.

During the hot months I was advised to take a short respite from the strain of office. I am deeply conscious that my leave and the enjoyment of it

were rendered possible only through the generous consideration of an old friend of Bengal, His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson, who, at great personal inconvenience—as I know—came and officiated for me. I am only too well aware of the unfortunate happenings here during those 3½ months and I am deeply grateful, as I know you were, for his presence in Bengal during a period of exceptional difficulty and anxiety.

This gathering may be regarded by many as a happy interlude in an otherwise rather dismal and trying existence, and I am somewhat diffident at the prospect of having to introduce topics which many of you may wish, at all events for the moment, to forget. But, being an admirer of the natural optimism of the Scotsmen, I venture to express a belief that the clouds which at present depress us will soon roll away and, to borrow Mr. Laird's words, I will say "lang may your lum reek!" Politically, as in commerce, it is difficult to forecast the future with confidence, and if I refrain from prophecy, I hope in what I have to say you may find no grounds for increased pessimism.

I listened with much pleasure, Colonel Arthur, to your speech in proposing the toast of "The Viceroy and the Land we live in." You have referred to the Viceroy's services to India and the Empire during his term of office which now, to the general regret, is rapidly growing to a close. It is probably true to say that no Viceroy has been faced with greater difficulties than have beset Lord Irwin during the whole of the period that he has been in India. Apart from his responsibility for the peace, tranquility, good government and general welfare

of India,—no light responsibility in such times as we have lately been passing through,—he must throughout have been pre-occupied with a knowledge that during his term of office would fall the reconsideration of the future constitution for India with a view to the “progressive realisation of responsible self-government.” Under such conditions I feel that his task would have been doubly difficult but for his possession of exceptional qualities which have undoubtedly appealed to, and gained the confidence of, people of all parties and classes in India.

To your admirable appreciation of Lord Irwin's character and personality and his unselfish devotion to duty, I cannot with any advantage add anything, save perhaps that after many years of close personal and political acquaintance, I know him as extremely human, a cheery companion and a first-class sportsman, an English gentleman with high ideals, with power of will and power of self-restraint, with strong feelings but with a strong command over them; and that, I believe, is a true indication of strength of character, an invaluable asset in the Viceroy of India. Lord Irwin's departure from India will be sincerely regretted by every one.

Last year I announced at this dinner my intention to appoint Ministers, the Government having been carried on under the Transferred Subjects' (Temporary Administration) Rules without Ministers for nearly six months. Of the three then appointed, two are still in office. I was very sorry that, for reasons with which I could not wholly agree, Kumar Shib Shekharewar Ray considered it

necessary to resign. I welcome his successor and wish him good fortune. I should like also to take *this*, the first public, opportunity I have had to offer my congratulations to Mr. Nazimuddin upon the part he has played in placing upon the Statute Book a measure which, I believe, must prove of first class importance to education in Bengal.

‘There is no member of my Government, whether in the transferred or reserved side, who has not been faced with difficulty and anxiety during this last year. The Hon’ble the Political Member, as all must realise, has had his full share of anxiety, but I have little doubt that the Hon’ble Member for Finance considers that he deserves the greatest commiseration. Owing to the widespread depression in trade, coupled with the disturbed conditions which have prevailed in India during this last year, revenues, never sufficient, have shown a serious decline.

This must naturally involve a serious retrenchment in expenditure in all departments with the result that all but the most essential services must suffer. The present position indicates that the normal balance of a crore of rupees will practically disappear. I hope that this unfortunate position is only temporary, but Government have no alternative but to resort to drastic retrenchment, which I fear, must mean that many useful and deserving projects must be postponed.

The task of Government in Bengal during the past year has not been plain sailing. They have had to contend continuously with dirty weather, and have rarely been free from anxiety. We have been faced with civil disturbance with its organised

defiance of authority and the law, with the recrudescence of terrorism and with an attempt at armed rebellion. When speaking at this dinner last year I was aware of the danger of civil disturbance, and I stated then that Government would be prepared to meet any emergency which threatened to disturb or interfere with the performance of the peaceful avocations of the inhabitants of this Presidency. •

It is gratifying to hear from you, Colonel Arthur, a word of commendation upon the way in which Government have met the situation. I feel that Government can claim that they have not hesitated, as indeed they never will, to make full use of the powers they possess, in face of serious emergency, to maintain the law and preserve the peace of this Province. Government must be the first to acknowledge the loyal co-operation of all the Services to assure this end. Only those who are in constant touch with the administration throughout the districts, can fully appreciate with what courage and devotion Government officers, both British and Indian, often in danger and comparatively unsupported in their districts, have carried out their duties. They fully deserve the tribute you paid them.

I was glad to hear your tribute to the work of the Police in all branches throughout the Province. The loyalty and devotion to duty of all ranks of the Police under conditions of exceptional trial, deserve the highest commendation.

It would be impossible in times like these, when every portion of the Province is under the influence of agitation, that everything the Police have done will meet with everybody's approval, but I think it must be admitted by all—other than those who

are deliberately prejudiced—that they have carried out their duties under exceptional conditions with remarkable restraint and great credit. Of the work of the Police in Calcutta we are all well aware. They have discharged their difficult duties of maintaining order and the security of the peace with great efficiency. None but those who deliberately flout authority or offend against the law should have reason to feel a grievance against the Police. At the same time the Police have a right to claim the support of all law-abiding citizens. The force, as a whole, has shown remarkable loyalty and restraint and a discipline, the quality of which directly reflects exceptional confidence in leadership.

It was with feelings of the deepest regret that I heard, when I was on leave, of the dastardly attack upon police officers at Dacca. Mr. Lowman's death came as a severe blow to his many friends, British and Indian, throughout the Province and was a serious loss to the force in which he had risen to the highest position. I am glad to know that Mr. Hodson is making satisfactory progress towards complete recovery. We have special reason to be grateful for the providential escape of Sir Charles Tegart from the attempted assassination. Sir Charles Tegart's experience, remarkable courage and sound judgment are of great value to Government as they are a source of confidence to the law-abiding citizens of Calcutta.

You, Colonel Arthur, referred to the wide depression in trade which has prevailed during the last year. The depression appears to be world-wide and India has received her share of it. The trade which naturally attracts special attention in Bengal

is jute. I believe it may be asserted with some degree of accuracy that the jute trade has attained a position of importance in the economic life of the province when its prosperity or adversity is felt one way or another by half the population. The production of jute is a monopoly of Bengal, so far as India is concerned and also, I believe, throughout the world. It is the mainstay of the agricultural industry in Eastern Bengal and the crop has come to be regarded by the cultivator as a sure source of income. So regular has been the demand for his product at a price which paid him to grow it that the present position, when raw jute has fallen to a level rarely before experienced, has come as a very severe blow to the ryot. The idea that one day the price of jute might fall far below the cost of production had never occurred to him and the wisdom of providing against such an emergency has not yet been appreciated. The seriousness of the position of the ryot, and specially the landless labourer, who depends for his livelihood upon the work supplied by the reaping of the jute crop, is well appreciated by Government. Many proposals for dealing with the position have been conveyed to Government, few of which, however, have appeared to them to be practicable or economically sound. The conditions prevailing to-day in the jute trade may, in my view, be regarded as being of a temporary character. The causes are obvious,—the world-wide depression, involving a lack of the demand for export of the finished article and also the raw material, accompanied by a serious over-production in raw material and perhaps in a lesser degree in the manufactured article. As far as the

manufacturers are concerned, they will no doubt meet their difficulties in their own way, but it appears to Government highly desirable that every effort should be made to impress upon the cultivator the absolute necessity of reducing his production, at any rate for next year, by a considerable amount. To this end Government have approved a propaganda campaign which, according to my latest information, is being appreciated by those to whom it is addressed. It will be necessary for Government to find means for tiding over the temporary trouble and meeting any reported distress amongst those who are seriously affected. The refusal of Government to consider the suggestion of entering the market and buying jute, or operating in any way likely artificially to raise the price of raw material, or of encouraging restriction by legislation, will, I think, meet with the general approval of all those well acquainted with the conditions of the trade. I should like to say now, however, that I hope, when normal conditions are resumed, and a fair price is obtained by the cultivator for his production, bringing in, I am told, as much as 30 or 40 crores per annum,—that the wisdom of providing against unforeseen conditions, such as we have at present experienced, will be carefully considered by all directly affected by the great difficulties.

Since we met at this dinner a year ago, the preliminaries in connection with the endeavour to solve the problem of the future constitution in India have proceeded. The Report of the Statutory Commission has been published, the proposals have been considered and reported upon by Local Governments: the Government of India's Despatch

on the Report has also been published. The discussions at the Round Table Conference have begun and we "In this land we live in" watch the proceedings with interest and very natural anxiety. We also watch that section of political thought in India who have stood aloof and declined to assist in the deliberations in London, and who direct their efforts to discredit their countrymen's endeavours at the conference. Their policy has been throughout purely destructive. It has done much harm, not only materially to the trade and commercial well-being of the country, but even more serious in my view is the moral harm which has been done to the younger generation by encouraging them in the belief that patriotism depends upon defiance of authority and contempt for the law. But there are signs in all parts of India that the people are beginning to realise the futility of a policy of destruction and are turning to support those of their countrymen who have decided to adopt the line of deliberation and constructive effort, as the one most likely to lead to the solution of India's constitutional problems. We must now realise that the architects are at work in their endeavour to produce designs for an edifice in the shape of a new constitution for India. The designs must be such, when presented to Parliament, as to make it possible for an edifice to be fashioned suitable to stand on the foundations upon which it is to be placed. For many years the main work of the British in India has been to create and strengthen the foundations upon which such an edifice could stand safe and secure.

Unfortunately we see attempts are being made to undermine these foundations by inculcating into the minds of the youth of this country the spirit of disobedience, defiance of authority and race hatred, all of which must seriously affect social, political and financial stability. If this undermining policy is allowed to continue, I fear the foundations will become unsound and with the first shiver of internal trouble and disagreement the stability of the new edifice will be imperilled and that prosperity and social and political advancement which we all desire to see, will receive a serious set back.

I am afraid I have wandered from the toast I am responding to, but once again on behalf of your guests, I beg to thank you for your generous hospitality and to wish you all a peaceful and prosperous future.

His Excellency's Addresses to the gentlemen invested at the Calcutta Durbar on 2nd December 1930.

COLONEL W. V. COPPINGER, C.I.E., D.S.O., I.M.S.,

For many years you have rendered valuable service to this Province as an officer of the Indian Medical Service, having held with distinction many important posts including the Professorship of Ophthalmology. It was largely owing to your capable and untiring efforts that the scheme for an Eye Hospital was successfully brought to fruition recently. You left the Province on appointment as Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Central Provinces, but have now returned to take up the responsible office of Surgeon-General with the Government of Bengal,—a post to which you have lately been appointed.

In the name of the King Emperor of India, and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the Honourable Badge of the Order of the Indian Empire, of which Most Eminent Order His Imperial Majesty has been graciously pleased to appoint you a Companion.

MR. GEORGE RUTHERFORD DAIN, C.I.E., M.C.,

As Agent of the Calcutta Tramways Company, you have served the public of Calcutta well by organising and maintaining effective means of transport in the Calcutta area, not only in normal times but also on occasions of civil commotion when, by your presence and personal example, you have confirmed the loyalty of the Company's employees

and, by maintaining the transport services, sometimes in the teeth of violent opposition, have on more occasions than one done much to restore public confidence in this City. Your experience and advice as regards the city's traffic problems and your active co-operation in the supply of transport or of breakdown gangs have always been ungrudgingly placed at the disposal of the authorities.

In the name of the King Emperor of India, and by His Majesty's command, I invest you with the Honourable Badge of the Order of the Indian Empire, of which Most Eminent Order His Imperial Majesty has been graciously pleased to appoint you a Companion.

SARDAR BAHADUR SONAM WANGFEL LADEN LA, C.B.E.,

Your long service in the Police Department has been marked with conspicuous ability and thoroughness. You were recently sent by the Government of India on a special mission to Tibet where you rendered specially meritorious service. Your tactful handling of a difficult task was crowned with success and has further cemented the bonds of friendship between India and her neighbours.

In the name of the King-Emperor, and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

MAHARAJA SRISH CHANDRA NANDY, OF KASIMBAZAR,

By the death of your highly respected father, the late Maharaja Sir Maindra Chandra Nandy, you succeed to the title of Maharaja and are now the

head of a house which occupies a high place in the aristocracy of Bengal. The illustrious name of Rani Swarnamoyee is a household word in Bengal for charity and benevolence. The late Maharaja's benefactions were equally generous and he maintained with credit the dignity of your House. You have been deemed worthy to succeed to the title enjoyed by your father and I feel satisfied that you will creditably discharge the responsibilities attaching to your position. It gives me great pleasure to present you with the *Khilat* which you have chosen.

SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULVI MUHAMMAD AMIN ABBASI,

You are a scholar of considerable attainments being a master of Arabic literature, both classical and modern. You have also studied the Sanskrit and Prakritic languages. You have produced a number of scholarly works of merit and your scholastic qualifications are widely acknowledged. You are an efficient teacher and command the respect of your pupils, and you are eminently fitted for the distinction of Shams-Ul-Ulama.

I congratulate you.

MAHAMAHOPADHYAYA PANDIT CHANDIDAS NAYA
TARKATIRTHA,

A great Sanskrit scholar of the old school, specialising in Nyaya, you have devoted the greater part of your life in teaching that branch of Philosophy in the Annakali Tol at Krishnagar and later in the Nabadwip Sanskrit Tol. You are respected for your erudition and piety, and your learning has won for you the position of Vice-President of the

Bangiya Brahman Sabha : for the same reason you were elected a representative of Bengal in the All-India Brahman Sabha held in Benares in 1928. I congratulate you on the title which has been conferred upon you.

MR. JOHN WILLIAM MCKAY, I.S.O.,

You have rendered exceptionally meritorious service in the Legislative Department and in the Legislative Council both before and since the Reforms of 1920. Your wide knowledge of Parliamentary procedure has been of the greatest value to the Department and the Council.

His Majesty the King-Emperor has been pleased to appoint you a Companion of the Imperial Service Order of which I have now pleasure to present to you the Badge.

**LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DR. HASSAN SUHRAWARDY,
O.B.E.,**

You were admitted to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1927. Besides your official duties as Chief Medical Officer of the Eastern Bengal Railway, you have a long and distinguished record of public service performed in an honorary capacity. You were a non-official member of the first and second reformed Legislative Councils and for some time held the office of Deputy President : you are a member of the Court of the Dacca University and now hold the high position of Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta. As a recognised authority of social welfare and public health you have been responsible for the initiation and carrying through of large scale anti-malarial and cholera control measures. You

are a member of the Bengal Provincial Sanitary Board and the Board of Public Health, Calcutta Corporation, and have for many years taken an active interest in the St. John Ambulance.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command I present you with Kaisar-I-Hind Gold Medal for public service in India.

RAI RADHIKA BHUSAN RAY. BAHADUR,

You belong to the premier Zamindar family in Pabna and are held in high esteem for your high character, public spirit and benefactions. With your elder brother, Rai Kshitish Bhushan Ray Bahadur, you have contributed generously to Schools, Dispensaries and other works of public utility. You are known for your loyalty and, in various matters of public interest, have proved of great assistance to the local officers. You have well earned the title of Rai Bahadur of which I have great pleasure in presenting you the Sanad.

RAI GIRISH CHANDRA DAS BAHADUR,

Your brilliant career as an Engineer began in 1892 when you carried out important work in connection with the Calcutta High Court. For many years you have been an Engineer with Messrs. Martin & Co. and now hold the post of Chief Engineer of the Railway Department in that Firm. During your long career you have carried out many important engineering works and you are held in high respect throughout the business world in Calcutta.

You have well merited the distinction conferred upon you.

RAI BRAJA BIHARI BARMAN BAHADUR,

In 1921 you were awarded the title of Rai Sahib in recognition of your good work in the Police Department. From that date until your retirement in 1929 you maintained your high reputation as a police officer, carrying out your arduous duties as a Deputy Superintendent of the Intelligence Branch with care and perseverance. Your services have earned the commendation of the Government of Bihar and Orissa and of this Government. You have well deserved this advancement to the higher title.

RAI BEJOY KRISHNA MITRA BAHADUR,

Besides being one of the leading pleaders of the Jessore Bar, you have been connected with the district board as Chairman for several years and with the municipality, first for a long time as a Vice-Chairman and later as its Chairman. You take a keen interest and a prominent part in every scheme of public utility and combine loyalty to Government with a healthy influence over the people of the district. I congratulate you on the title of Rai Bahadur conferred upon you.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI ABDUL LATIF KHAN,

You received the title of Khan Sahib in 1921 in appreciation of your valuable work in the Education Department. As Personal Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction, you have proved yourself a loyal, trustworthy and competent officer of sound and unbiassed judgment. You enjoy the confidence of the department and your excellent service has fully merited your promotion to the higher title.

RAI NAGENDRA NATH BANERJEE BAHADUR,

You have rendered excellent service as the Public Prosecutor of the 24-Perganas. You have also given valuable public service as Chairman of the Birnagar Municipality in Nadia district, where you have worked hard to combat malaria by modern scientific methods, the success of which has attracted the notice of the Public Health Department. I felicitate you on the well-merited distinction now conferred upon you.

RAI JOGESH CHANDRA SEN BAHADUR,

You have been connected with the District Board of the 24-Perganas for a number of years, as member, Vice-Chairman and since 1927 as Chairman in which capacity you have creditably discharged your onerous duties. You have also rendered valuable services in connection with the Gangasagar Mela. You devote considerable time to your duties as an Honorary Presidency Magistrate and have well earned the distinction of Rai Bahadur.

RAI MOONGTULAL TAPURIAH BAHADUR,

As a landholder and merchant of excellent repute you have, in keeping with your position, contributed liberally towards deserving public institutions including the Victoria Hospital, Darjeeling, the Puri Leper Asylum and the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta.

RAI GYANENDRA NATH DEY BAHADUR,

You were awarded the title of Rai Sahib in 1920 for valuable assistance to Government during the

salt crisis in 1919-20. Again later, when salt prices were abnormally high in Calcutta, it was largely through your efforts that a serious situation was brought under control. Your services stamp you as a public benefactor and have earned for you this advancement to the higher title.

RAI SUSHIL KUMAR GANGULI BAHADUR,

As a member of the Bengal Civil Service (Executive) you have rendered excellent service throughout your career. You have held with credit the responsible posts of Divisional Commissioner's Personal Assistant, Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Department, and Assistant Secretary to Government in the Irrigation Department and you are now officiating as Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Bengal. You received the title of Rai Sahib in 1927 and have since maintained your fine record of good work and have deservedly merited advancement to the higher title.

RAI GIRIJA BHUSHAN SEN BAHADUR,

You joined the Bengal Judicial Service in 1902 and by dint of merit rose to the high office of District and Sessions Judge from which you have recently retired. Your long and meritorious service as a judicial officer, has won for you the distinction conferred upon you.

RAI SARADA PRASANNA DAS BAHADUR,

You are a member of the Indian Educational Service, and, as the head of the Mathematical Department of the Presidency College, you have gained the

respect of students and colleagues alike. You have proved a reliable and helpful colleague to the Principal, especially in connection with the Presidency College Committee's Report. I congratulate you on the distinction conferred upon you.

RAI NAGENDRA NATH GANGULI BAHADUR,

You entered the service of the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta 37 years ago and have worked your way up to the responsible post of Senior Assistant Secretary. Your long, faithful and meritorious services have earned for you the distinction conferred upon you.

RAI MONINDRA NATH BHATTACHARJI BAHADUR,

Your meritorious service on the East Indian Railway gained for you the title of Rai Sahib in 1924. For your long and exemplary service extending over a period of 39 years, first on the Eastern Bengal Railway and subsequently on the East Indian Railway, you have been awarded the higher title of Rai Bahadur.

RAI BAHADURS AND KHAN BAHADUR,

I congratulate you one and all on the honours which have been conferred upon you and on the services for which you have earned them. I hope that you will long be spared to enjoy the honours in health and prosperity.

RAI SAHIB HARASHIT DATTA,

You entered the police service as a Sub-Inspector 30 years ago and in due course were promoted to the

rank of Inspector. You have proved yourself to be one of the best and most trusted officers of the Criminal Investigation Department.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI HAJI NEAMUDDIN AHMED,

You have rendered commendable service as a member of the Satkhira Local Board since 1915 and as a member of the Khulna District Board since 1922. You have given evidence of your public and philanthropic spirit by establishing a village dispensary, a middle English school and a Moslem boarding house.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI HAJI SHEIKH KASEM ALI,

As a landholder and tradesman at Jessore, you have worked for the spread of education and the provision of medical aid. You have offered land and a house for a dispensary and have established a Madrasah.

RAI SAHIB ASHUTOSH COOMAR,

You have an excellent record throughout your service of 26 years, the major portion of which has been rendered in the Bengal Secretariat. You have earned a reputation for hard work, ability and trustworthiness.

RAI SAHIB SATISH CHANDRA DATTA,

A zamindar of the Howrah district, you have set an example by your support of works of public benefit. You have contributed generously towards the construction of a high English school and a charitable dispensary at Nabagram and have taken steps for their upkeep. You have also given large sums for other public and religious purposes.

RAI SAHIB AMULYA CHARAN MITRA,

During the short period of your service as District Engineer since 1926 you have rendered excellent service ; your untiring energy and careful supervision of test relief works have brought you high commendation.

RAI SAHIB PRATAP CHANDRA GUPTA,

You have done excellent work as President of the Manikganj Union Board for a period of 9 years and as Vice-Chairman of the Manikganj Central Co-operative Bank, of which you have been an Honorary Secretary for 7 years.

RAI SAHIB KARTICK CHANDRA DAS,

Not only have you long done useful service as an Honorary Magistrate and a Municipal Commissioner at Santipur but you have set an example of public benefaction by establishing and endowing a dispensary there. You have also given a handsome sum for building a library and have constructed a large tank for drinking water.

RAI SAHIB MOTI LAL BOSE,

You entered the service of the Eastern Bengal Railway in 1894 and were promoted to the responsible position of head clerk of the commercial section in 1919 and to the post of Claims Inspector in 1927. You have rendered loyal and efficient service throughout your career.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI RUKNUDDIN AHMED,

You entered the Police Department as a Sub-Inspector in 1908 and were promoted to the grade

of Inspector in 1916. You did excellent work as Instructor in the Police Training College, Sardah, and, while employed in the Criminal Investigation Department, you have proved yourself thoroughly trustworthy. Your consistent good work has earned for you the title of Khan Sahib.

**KHAN SAHIB MAULVI ABU SHAMS MUHAMMAD
NURUN NABI,**

You have proved yourself to be one of the best Muhammadan Marriage Registrars in Bengal and command great respect amongst your co-religionists. Your work has been consistently good and you are known for your loyalty and ready co-operation.

RAI SAHIB RASIK LAL CHAKRABATTI,

As President of the Raripara Union Board you have earned for it the reputation of being the best union board in the district of Khulna. It is due to the confidence placed in you by the people that non-payment of taxes is almost unknown in the union. You have for several years been associated with works of public utility and have established a village dispensary at Goalmath. Your valuable public services have deserved recognition.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI SHEIKH MD. YAQUB,

You did excellent service as Office Superintendent in the Headquarters Office of the Ministry of Communications, Iraq. You discharged your duties in a most efficient manner and have been responsible for the thorough training of a large number of Iraqis. At all times you have shown the greatest tact in your dealings both with your Iraqi superiors and with the staff under your control.

RAI SAHIB MONOMOCHAN MUKHARJI,

You have completed nearly 20 years' service and have done exceptionally capable and meritorious work in the Legislative Department of the Government of Bengal as a Legislative draftsman.

RAI SAHIB RADHESH CHANDRA SEN,

You entered the service of Government 30 years ago and by dint of merit have attained to the responsible position of Superintendent, Calcutta Police Office. You are a conscientious, hard-working and efficient officer and have throughout your career earned the commendation of your superior officers.

RAI SAHIB DWIJENDRA NATH MAITRA,

You have been awarded the title of Rai Sahib in recognition of your valuable work in the office of the Indian Statutory Commission.

RAI SAHIB HRISHIKESH MUKHARJI,

You have an excellent record, firstly as an Appraiser and then as Principal Appraiser in the Calcutta Custom House. You are one of the very few qualified textile experts in India and have rendered valuable service as a technical adviser.

RAI SAHIB PRABHAT CHANDRA GHOSE,

You have retired after a service of 19 years on the Eastern Bengal Railway and previous service on other railways. Throughout your career you have rendered faithful and satisfactory service.

RAI SAHIB SATIS CHANDRA BANERJI,

You entered the service of Government as a clerk in 1900 and have risen to the post of Chief Clerk to the Geological Survey of India. Your work has been consistently satisfactory and your loyal and meritorious service has won for you the title of Rai Sahib.

RAI SAHIBS AND KHAN SAHIBS,

I congratulate you most heartily on well-deserved honours, which I trust you may long be spared to enjoy.

REV. THOMAS HERBERT CASHMORE,

When you were inducted to the Parish of St. James in Calcutta in 1924, there were in the Parish only two Primary Schools and less than 150 children under instruction. Through your efforts these schools are now recognised as High Schools and the attendance has increased to over 600. The extension of accommodation has also been entirely due to your endeavours. Besides your Parish work and the maintenance of the classes you have done valuable work for the District Charitable Society and for the promotion of Anglo-Indian charities and education.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, I present you with the Kaiser-I-Hind Medal of the second class for public service in India.

His Excellency's Speech at the Institute of Engineers' dinner on 19th December 1930.

GENTLEMEN,

I am very grateful for the opportunity which has been afforded me of once again attending this annual dinner of the Institute of Engineers, and I must thank you, Mr. Addams-Williams, for the generous way in which you have proposed the toast of the guests for whom I am called upon to reply.

You have reminded me that this is the third occasion upon which I have attended this dinner and I would at once assure you that the pleasure I experience in doing so is in no way diminished by repetition.

I am beginning to feel that I have almost qualified to be one of the hosts rather than a guest; though in spite of considerable practice I still feel some diffidence as to my ability adequately to respond for your guests. However, I feel sure that they will desire me to express our gratitude for your generous hospitality and the kindly reception which you have accorded to the toast.

Most of those present this evening no doubt attended an interesting ceremony this morning, when the foundation-stone of a new building, which is to provide a headquarters in Calcutta for your Institution, was laid by His Excellency the Viceroy and I should like to congratulate you upon the fact that your building has now commenced to take visible form. I look forward to seeing it completed and in full working order before I leave Bengal.

This new building will not only be your official home in Calcutta, but also I hope a place to which Engineers, both young and old, may resort for mutual instruction, co-operation and good fellowship. Mr. Addams-Williams was kind enough to give me credit for some assistance I had been able to render in connection with this new building. I shall always be ready to respond in any way I can to your requests, as I feel that it is upon the foundation of the work of the Engineer that the health and prosperity of India must largely rely and in my view all records of progress in India amply testify that this view is correct.

Mr. Addams-Williams quite justifiably, I think, informed us this evening of the numerous engineering projects which have been and are being undertaken in Bengal and he indicated the difficulties which had been faced and surmounted, and those which had been accomplished. He mentioned also problems with which we are faced connected with Irrigation, Roads and Sanitation and made special reference to the conservancy of navigable rivers of which there are 20,000 miles in Bengal. Of all these perhaps the most important and the one which presents the greatest difficulties, is that particular branch with which Mr. Addams-Williams has been so long and honourably associated. I have always believed that the most important factors directly affecting the well-being of the people in this Province are Education and Irrigation. As regards the former the placing of the Rural Primary Education Bill on the Statute Book may, I hope, prove to be a good start towards the creation of a satisfactory system of education throughout Bengal.

As regards Irrigation and its cognate problems, I feel that we have still a long way to go before we can be satisfied that we have begun to approach the solution of this great question. Last year Government appointed a Committee, for the purpose of advising upon the reorganisation of the Irrigation Department and upon irrigation questions in general as they affect Bengal. The Committee was presided over by Mr. Hopkyns who was fortunate to have as his colleagues two eminent Irrigation experts in Mr. Harris and Mr. Smith. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my own and also my Government's appreciation of the excellent report which resulted from the investigations of this Committee—a document which bids fair to prove of the greatest value. One of the recommendations was the appointment of a waterways trust which, it is hoped, will include representatives from Assam and Bihar and would thereby possess an inter-provincial character. A bill to embody this proposal has already been drafted and the opinions of interested bodies have been invited. When these views have been received, Government will proceed to consider the introduction of a Bill in the Legislative Council. I have every hope that the efforts, which are being made to give to the public and local interests a more direct and effective voice in the administration of waterways, will stimulate the interest of the public in conservancy problems and will encourage mutual co-operation and support. The waterways of Bengal are, and always must be, of vital importance as a means of communication.

Last Wednesday I was privileged to visit the Bally Bridge which, when completed, will provide

a railway and road communication over the river Hooghly which has been a long-felt want. I had the good fortune then of witnessing an interesting engineering operation when a span of the bridge weighing over 17,000 tons was transferred by the operation of the tide of the river from its temporary position on one side of the river to its permanent position on the other side. The utilisation of the forces of nature to carry out this exceptional engineering work must have made a great impression upon all those who witnessed it, and the ease with which the work was accomplished certainly reflects the highest credit upon Mr. Sleight and all officers and men concerned. I have reason to believe that when the Bally Bridge is completed, it will rightly be regarded both as a structure and in its method of erection as an exceptional engineering feat.

In another direction we must rely upon the Engineer, namely, the improvement of existing roads in Bengal and the possible creation of new ones. The Central Road Board have at last decided to place funds out of the Central Road Fund at the disposal of Local Governments for expenditure upon approved roads. Last year my Government appointed a Road Board to advise on the programme of expenditure of approximately 13 lakhs of rupees over a period of five years and it is satisfactory to know that their recommendations have been accepted by the Government of India. I do not wish to raise false hopes as to the improvements which may be made on communications in Bengal: the funds available are very limited and must be distributed among roads in different parts of the Province. I feel that in connection with work on the roads of

Bengal, the skill and enterprise of the Engineer will be taxed to the utmost. He will be working under a considerable disadvantage in view of the fact that in most districts suitable material for metalling roads is not readily available, and will have to be brought from long distances, but, perhaps, the Engineers may be able to devise some special methods of road construction which will help us to get over the difficulties of lack of suitable material on the spot or near at hand.

There is one other matter of the most urgent nature with which we are faced at present in this city. The situation in connection with the drainage of Calcutta as also of Howrah has become very serious, owing largely to the deterioration of the river Bidyadhari which has served in the past as an outlet for the whole of the sewage system of the city. The problem of the internal drainage system is, of course, primarily the concern of the Calcutta Corporation, but if I judge aright from the information I at present possess, the connected question of the outfall is one of such magnitude and importance as to necessitate the most anxious attention of Government. Last census showed the population of Calcutta and suburbs as 11,32,000. This must have increased and will continue to increase. It is quite obvious that a decision as regards the new drainage system cannot long be delayed, but Government consider it necessary to obtain the best expert advice available and they propose to constitute a Board to examine and advise upon the problem of the outlet and disposal of the drainage of the city as a whole. In the satisfactory

solution of this problem the Engineer must necessarily take a prominent part. The field of development in India is enormous, but the rate of progress must depend upon that condition of tranquility and stability which at present is disturbed and uncertain.

In any development the Engineers must play a prominent part. Their achievements in India in the past stand out as a highly creditable record. Given the opportunities I have no doubt that their achievements in the future will surpass those in the past.

I must thank you once more on my own behalf and on behalf of your guests for your kindness this evening and in return I would offer you our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and especially for a happy and prosperous New Year.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening
of the Garden Fete organized by the
Church Education League at Kidderpore
House on 9th January 1931.***

ARCHDEACON GRIMES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I think I may assume that your presence here this afternoon betokens an interest in the Church Education League and that you are acquainted with its objects and methods. It is not, therefore, my intention to give you a history of the League, or to spend much time in a defence of its existence or a commendation of its activities: in so doing I feel I should be preaching to the converted! We would, most of us, admit nowadays that education should be the education of the whole man, and for that matter the whole woman, spiritually, intellectually and physically. The intellectual and physical aspects of education may fairly be expected to be mainly the concern of Government—at all events up to a certain standard, but as you will readily appreciate, living as you do in a country where religious differences are not only fundamental but unfortunately at times bitter, the provision of religious instruction in schools is a matter of some delicacy for the State, and it is here that the Church Education League finds at once its *raison d'être* and its opportunity. By supporting eight schools in this Province the League endeavours “to provide for the children of the Anglican Church the means whereby they may be grounded in the great principles of the Christian faith and practice.” That is essentially a work for Church people and I venture to think that no

charity which you can assist is likely to prove so good an investment for the future of the country as one which aims at providing for the young a sound education inspired by the highest spiritual ideals.

On this occasion it is best that I should rather stress the special anxieties and needs of to-day. The Church of England in this Presidency is wholly or partly responsible for the maintenance of eight European schools in which over one hundred teachers are employed, and over fifteen hundred boys and girls receive their education. The expenditure on the upkeep of these schools amounts to over seven lakhs of rupees annually, of which Government provides about a quarter. The remainder has to be found by endowments, fees and voluntary subscriptions. You will readily appreciate that the money provided by Government grants, endowments and fees is largely, if not completely, swallowed up in the maintenance and running of the schools on their present level of efficiency: the improvements and extensions which every progressive school must carry out, and even the repairs which from time to time become necessary, call for special provision, and it is to the League that the schools look for funds for these purposes. During the twenty-three years of its existence the League has raised over four-and-a-half lakhs of rupees for these purposes, and I want to emphasise the fact that all this is "good money" from the point of view of education: the work of the League is done by honorary workers and the cost of administering the fund is negligible—I believe less than Rs. 500 a year, mostly for printing and postage. The League aims at raising Rs. 50,000 a

year to meet the demands of the schools for extensions, improvements and repairs. I am afraid that this figure has never yet been reached in any year, though in 1923 nearly Rs. 40,000 was raised. Since then, I regret to see the annual receipts have averaged less than half the figure of Rs. 50,000 aimed at, and in the year just closing against a demand of Rs. 46,000 made on the League only Rs. 17,000 has been collected. It is to meet this position that the Garden Fête has been organised.

It will serve no useful purpose to go deeply into the causes of this year's falling off in collections. The funds of the League are drawn from Church collections, membership fees and subscriptions from individuals and firms. While I believe that the sums received from Church collections have generally speaking been maintained at their previous level, it is natural, though lamentable, that subscriptions from firms which have hitherto been generous supporters of the League should reflect the world-wide trade depression. It is the more necessary therefore to emphasise the fact that the institutions supported by the League require more money rather than less in times of depression : with reduced wages and increasing unemployment, parents have been unable to pay their school fees and the schools have endeavoured as far as possible to meet the situation rather by reducing fees than by refusing to keep their pupils. The tendency has consequently been to increase the calls upon the League, and this has come at a time when the League's receipts have themselves been hard hit through the same trade depression.

I have probably said enough to indicate the pressing need for support for the League at this time. It is, of course, primarily the duty of members of the Church of England to give that support: at the same time I might mention that, though the Church Education League is itself a Church organisation, the schools which it supports do not close their doors against children of other religions. There are many non-Christian children, for example, at St. Paul's, Darjeeling.

Those who know them will agree that the schools assisted by the League are doing a fine work among the people for whom they are primarily intended—the European and Anglo-Indian children of the Province. I am very glad to have been able to come here this afternoon to open this Fête and to see the English village which has sprung up in these grounds. I believe it is an Elizabethan village: it would, I think, surprise Good Queen Bess not a little to find a gramophone stall in her village, and though we know that the yeomen of England have always had a firm belief in beer as their meat and drink, there is, I think, no historical record of Sir Francis Drake and his men making merry with “green beer” and midget golf as you can do to-day in the inn of this Elizabethan village. Perhaps we enjoy many advantages of which our ancestors never dreamt even in those spacious days, though I am not sure that they experienced such awkward times as we would appear to be going through at present. Let us not, in the matter of providing for our schools, fall behind the age which saw the foundation of so

many of the great schools which are the pride of England to-day.

It gives me great pleasure to declare this Garden Fête open : I must congratulate those who have organised it and helped in the work of preparation. I wish the Fête and the object which it is intended to support every success.

His Excellency's Reply to the Informal Address presented by the Municipal Commissioners of Asansol, on 21st January 1931.

MR. SINGH ROY, MR. ROY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

"It has given Lady Jackson and me much pleasure to come to Asansol to-day and we greatly appreciate the kind welcome you have accorded to us. I would also thank the Municipal Commissioners for their address and for the invitation they have extended to me to take part in the opening of your new waterworks.

I have always thought that Asansol could claim to be regarded as one of the most important subdivisions in the Presidency. You have in your midst many large and varied industrial interests and the fact that there are located in close proximity to your town four large railway centres, indicates the importance with which your potential industrial development is regarded. Coal was, I believe, discovered here as far back as the days of Warren Hastings; with the advent of the East Indian Railway, the coal industry began to develop, and I am informed that the output has steadily increased from 2½ million tons in 1903 to about six millions in 1929. There are also a large number of factories within the subdivision giving employment to over 21,000 people. These facts indicate that the industrial development of this subdivision has in the past been remarkable and though I am well aware that like all other industrial centres Asansol is suffering from the present world-wide depression, I feel quite confident that with the return to normal conditions

and when the present unfortunate civil disturbance has ceased, the factors which have enabled this district so rapidly to attain its present degree of development will ensure continued progress with its attendant prosperity.

I wish time permitted me on this occasion to have personally seen something of the various industrial activities in and around Asansol. I had the good fortune last year to visit Burnpur where I saw the Iron works which I feel satisfied for up-to-date efficiency cannot be surpassed, and I was interested to see the well-ordered colony which has grown up there during the last 12 years. I am also informed that your means of communications are good and that the roads and bridges reflect great credit upon your Local Board which is responsible for them. My attention has several times been drawn to the work of the Asansol Mines Board of Health. The Government are aware that the Act under which this Board is constituted and works is out of date, but they have not thought it advisable to proceed with legislation until the Report of the Commission on Labour Conditions in India is available. In the meantime a Bill will be brought before the Legislative Council during the forthcoming session providing for some minor amendments to the Act, the most important perhaps being a proposal to confer upon the Board a power—which it does not at present possess—of making bye-laws.

So far as the practical work of the Board is concerned, its results, as reflected in its Reports and in the vital statistics of the Province, are always a matter of keen interest to the Government of Bengal, and I would take the opportunity of expressing the

hope that the Chief Sanitary Officer under the Board will be able to develop the practical side of the Board's work in harmonious relations with the Department and the public. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that on the watchful activities of this Board depend the health and well-being not merely of the colliery population but also of this town and of all the western portion of the district.

Mr. Roy—I listened to the address which you have just read with much interest, in which you refer to some of the activities of the municipality and the needs which you consider must be met to enable you to maintain satisfactory progress. Amid such progressive surroundings, you will not allow your town to lag behind. In these days a town is likely to be judged by the common amenities which it provides, especially water-supply, sanitation and electric power. The new water-works which are to be opened to-day is an indication that you are alive to your responsibilities. I was rather surprised to hear in your address that your town has not yet been provided with the electric power for light and fans. I understand that the municipal authorities are now negotiating for the supply of power and I have no doubt they will soon come to a decision. The supply of light and fans must be regarded now-a-days not only as a necessity, but as a common amenity in any town of importance. In this matter I feel sure Government would lend every encouragement to an approved scheme.

In the meantime until the municipality come to a decision, all schemes for providing fans and lights to the growing colony of offices and houses round the Asansol Court must be postponed.

I was glad to hear your report of the condition of boys' schools in this town. The position as regards girls' schools, however, does not appear to be quite so satisfactory. I am informed that apart from the American Methodist Mission School, which receives a Government grant, there is only one other Middle English School for girls, and this school was only founded a year ago. I am afraid, therefore, that it is as yet premature to consider a high school for girls in Asansol. I would suggest that the development and improvement of the existing Middle English Schools should be seriously taken up as a preliminary to the establishment of a girls' high school.

"I have heard with regret of the condition of the Leighton Memorial Hospital. The cutting down of beds and reduction of medical staff betoken a serious state of affairs. Government support this hospital to the extent of finding the pay of the medical officer-in-charge and making a small annual donation, and I am afraid that in the present state of the provincial finances there is little chance of your request for an increased grant-in-aid being favourably considered by Government. I feel, however, that in an area where the hospital must be called upon to deal with a number of accident cases, there ought not to be much difficulty in raising funds. I shall be pleased myself to give a donation of Rs. 500 to this Institution which amount, I am advised, might be spent on a high pressure steam sterilizer which is urgently required and I hope that this may prove an encouragement for further support.

As regards your request for the elevation of Asansol to the status of a district, I am afraid it is impossible for me at this time, for many reasons, principally financial, to give you any definite undertaking that your request can be met in the immediate future. At the same time I fully appreciate that your desire in this respect betokens a proper local ambition. At present I feel that all Government can do is to endeavour by administrative arrangement to satisfy your immediate legitimate aspirations.

Now, Sir, it is my pleasure to congratulate you upon the successful completion of your new water-works. I understand that the question of the provision of an adequate water-supply for Asansol has been occupying your attention for many years and it is satisfactory to know that you have at last evolved, what I hope will prove to be an eminently satisfactory system. I have been much interested in the means which you have adopted to ensure a supply of pure water at the intake and the system of distribution by which you hope to meet one of the principal difficulties of water-supply, unnecessary waste. Government have welcomed your scheme and gladly assisted you with a donation, a loan and the help of Government Engineers and Government plant. I have heard with pleasure your tribute to the Government officers who have furthered the scheme at various stages and Mr. Griffin deserves special commendation. I would like to express my appreciation of the efforts which the Municipal Commissioners, both present and past, who have laboured for the success of this scheme and the generous local financial help without which the scheme could not have been

undertaken. In this latter connection, while it would be invidious to mention some names and omit others, I cannot refrain from a reference to the public-spirited generosity of Mr. E. C. Agabeg, who has crowned a long list of public services and benefactions by contributing half a lakh from his own pocket to the waterworks scheme.

At the risk of appearing unnecessarily interfering about your affairs, I would venture to give a word of advice which experience of other districts in Bengal prompts me to offer. The regular and efficient supply of water from the new works must depend upon the machinery provided for the purpose. Machinery to be able to perform its work satisfactorily, needs continuous consideration and attention. I understand arrangements have been made for expert supervision of the pumping plant. This is as it should be, but this is not the only protection that is necessary. The supply will bring in a revenue from the rates. The first charge upon this revenue should be for the upkeep and the efficiency of the plant. The temptation to borrow for other purposes from revenue yielded by water-rates is sure to arise and this temptation must be resolutely resisted until the provision for the upkeep of the machinery is unquestionably assured. You cannot afford to take risks with the supply of drinking water for the people in Asansol.

It is now my privilege to declare these municipal waterworks duly opened and in doing so I would express the hope that they will, in all respects, be successful and prove of lasting benefit to the people of the subdivision.

His Excellency's Speech at the St. John Ambulance Competition on 24th January 1931.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It gives me great pleasure, as President of the Local Centre, to come here this afternoon to present the Trophies. I wish I could have been here earlier to see something of the competitions themselves, but even a Governor cannot be at two places at once, and I had a previous engagement elsewhere which I had to keep.

This is not the time nor the occasion for me to speak generally about the work of the St. John Ambulance Association. I have never made any secret of the view which I hold that those who work for the St. John Ambulance are doing a great service to the country. They have their difficulties,—in India they have peculiar difficulties arising from social, racial and political causes,—but I think they have every reason to be proud of their work, both on the results achieved and on the knowledge that they are doing work of practical benefit for humanity.

I am glad to hear that the Education Campaign has been carried on with satisfactory results in spite of the difficulties of the past year. If the numbers who have received instruction during 1930 were less than in the previous year, it is at least satisfactory that the standard has improved: I understand that as many as 93 per cent. passed their tests in 1930 as against only 76 per cent. in 1929.

I was interested also to hear that a First Aid Road Station is now functioning: I am told that I see nothing of the traffic problem of Calcutta because wherever I go the Police are good enough to clear the way for me. But I know that with the increase of motor traffic accidents are bound to increase and I think we should be very grateful to the St. John's Ambulance for starting a First Aid Road Station to deal with them.

This afternoon the teams which have competed have been drawn from many different sources, Colleges, the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Railways, Police, the Auxiliary Force and the Scouts. I am glad to see so many ladies' teams competing and to hear that there has been an increase both in the number of teams and in the number of ladies taking part in the contests. I understand that the winners in each event will be invited to proceed to the All-India Competition in November: I am sure I wish them all success. In the meantime I most heartily congratulate them on their victories this afternoon and the unsuccessful teams on their plucky fight.

I must congratulate Mrs. Cottle also and the other organisers on the success of the meeting, and I am sure we all owe a great debt of gratitude to Mr. Galstaun for his kindness in lending us year after year this admirable park for the purpose of our competition.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bengal on 2nd February 1931.

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

My first duty is to offer congratulations to the President for his most interesting and profound address which we have heard with much pleasure.

The Annual Report for 1930 tells a tale of undiminished activity and, in the main, continued success which it is a pleasure to read.

We have unfortunately to deplore the inevitable gaps in our membership. Sir Benode Mitter and Mr. Langford James, though comparatively new members of the Society, were old friends to a great number of our body; while in Mr. R. D. Mehta the Society loses one who had been a member for forty-four years and had held the post of Treasurer. The late Colonel Phillott also had been a member for forty years and a Fellow for twenty. On the other side of the shield our roll of Honorary Fellows has been enriched by the addition of the names of three eminent scholars—Messrs. Robinson of London, Caland of Utrecht and Jacobi of Bonn. The Society as a whole has been honoured in the recognition accorded by His Majesty the King Emperor to the work of our energetic and popular General Secretary whom I was privileged, by His Majesty's command, to invest with the insignia of an Honorary Companionship of the Order of the Indian Empire during the course of the year. We all feel gratified at this signal recognition of one

who has gained our respect by his valuable work in India and our regard by his engaging personality. It is also, I am sure, a matter of sincere pleasure and gratification to the Society of which he is a Fellow that the services to Science of Sir C. Venkata Raman have also received recognition during the past year by the award of the Nobel prize for Physics.

Science and Scholarship are proverbially international and I am glad to see that the intimate relations hitherto subsisting between the Society and the world of scholarship elsewhere have been amply maintained during the year under review.

To the world at large the Society is best known for two things,—its publications and its library. These in fact constitute the main activities of the Society. As to publications,—the annual report speaks of over 3,000 printed pages being prepared for issue during the year: they relate to all kinds of subjects and cover editions in Sanskrit and in Persian, besides catalogues of Oriental manuscripts and the varied contents of the Society's Journals. This constitutes, I think, both for volume and variety, a record of which any learned Society has a right to be proud. The Library also records the completion of its seven years' binding programme and has in that period carried out the binding of over twelve thousand volumes of books and manuscripts.

We have, therefore, I think,—despite the slight fall in membership to which you, Mr. President, have made passing reference,—every right to feel satisfied with the work of the Society during the year which has just closed. I wish, however, to say

a word as regards the future,—a word in amplification of what fell from the lips of your President at the beginning of this address.

In three years' time the Society will celebrate its 150th birthday. During the course of a long and useful life it has not only accumulated possessions,—many of them treasured possessions,—but it has entered into multifarious commitments and set up traditions of work to be performed at a regular rate of volume and progress. Now learned Societies are essentially *not* profit-making concerns, indeed little or no monetary return can be expected from the greater part of such a society's activities. Yet a society like our's has need of money at every turn,—need of money to make new acquisitions: need of money for the upkeep of the treasures already acquired. I am convinced that the greater part of this expenditure should be met rather from endowments than from current income and this seems to me to be the great practical need of the Society at present. The energy and devotion of its members are manifest, but support from the general public, by way of generous benefactions and endowments, is lacking.

This is not the first time this matter has been mentioned at an annual meeting. For some years now this aspect of the Society's finances has been forcing itself upon your Council. My predecessor, Lord Lytton, himself twice made reference to it in his addresses to the Society, and something has already been done towards putting the Society's endowments on a better footing. We have, for one thing, the Library Permanent Endowment Fund for which Colonel Sewell appealed this afternoon, and we have

also the proposal which Lord Lytton supported that as far as possible future donors should themselves endow their gifts : the objective, as he pointed out, should be to set free current income for expenditure on current activities rather than on mere upkeep and standing charges. This is admirable advice but it does not, in my opinion, go far enough. We need at once a more generous and a more general endowment, and I think we can fairly look to a wider circle of benefactors than the Society's own members who have been our chief benefactors in times past. After all the Asiatic Society is a glory not merely to Calcutta or even to Bengal but to India. Such an appeal would be, it seems to me, in accord with the spirit of the times. Co-operation and conciliation, the promotion of good-will and a better understanding,—these are the crying needs of the day in India. But this Society has been for a century and a half a centre of such co-operation,—making for mutual trust, understanding and esteem within India herself and at the same time constituting itself by its normal activities one of the great propagandists for India and Indian ideals and culture to the world at large. The Society therefore has a claim to be regarded as of value not merely to the *scholars* of India but to all who value the name which India and Indian culture enjoy throughout the world. I would not then confine my appeal to the scholarly who are members of this Society : I think we can fairly make a wider appeal. An endowment of a few lakhs of rupees would do wonders for the Society and the giver would serve the cause not only of learning (which is an international asset) but of India.

I have been told—and I believe it to be true,—that in the seventeen years between 1912 and 1929 (including, as you will notice, the whole period of the war) benefactions to the extent of forty lakhs were made to the Royal Society by the public spirited in Great Britain. There must be enlightened patrons of learning in this vast country also,—a country famous for its largesse and its liberality. Let the devoted work of five generations of scholars bear fruit in a generous response from those who—in the words of the old Roman poet—“would raise to themselves a monument more enduring than brass.”

And now it only remains to me to thank you for this invitation to attend your deliberations to-day and to voice my hopes for another successful year in the Society's long career. I congratulate both you, Sir, and the Society on your re-election as President for the current year. You have earned distinction alike as a Zoologist, a Biologist, an Anthropologist and an Administrator; you will have, to assist you, the tireless General Secretary and a strong and, I believe, unanimous Council,—and I would take this opportunity of welcoming back to the Council our old friend, Sir Rajendra Nath Mookerjee, himself a past-President of the Society and a promoter of every intellectual movement in this part of the world. I am confident, Sir, that under your direction and with the zeal and enthusiasm which we have come to expect of our Council and members, the Society may look forward to a thoroughly successful year.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of
the Legislative Council Building on 9th
February 1931.***

MR. FAROQUI, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It was with exceptional pleasure that I accepted the invitation to take part in the opening ceremony of this new Council House for Bengal to-day. You, Mr. Faroqui, have given us a lucid and interesting *resumé* of the construction of this building from its inception to its completion. It is clear from your account that this work has not been accomplished without encountering difficulties, but these have been surmounted and to-day we are able to offer our congratulations to all those who have been responsible in one way or other for the successful completion of this fine building. We have reason to be grateful to that representative Committee who, in the first instance, having selected the site, successfully persuaded Government to adopt their proposals: and we must applaud the decision to approve the design which, I feel sure, all will acknowledge, both for practical use and for architectural beauty, reflects the greatest credit on the foresight and æsthetic skill on Mr. Greaves. I feel that I should also commend the work of Mr. Cairns who has been the Engineer in charge during the whole period of construction. The construction work is in every way worthy of the great firm which has carried out the contract and I think I may say that the building is in all respects commensurate with the importance of its purpose. I can well

imagine that the architect may have hesitated, momentarily perhaps, in his task of providing a building which would meet this requirement, having regard to the limited resources which could be provided for the purpose. However, the building is in being for all to behold and ready for immediate use, and I believe the general verdict must be that it is good. The only criticism which I have heard is that, in view of a probable expansion of the Provincial franchise and an increase in the number of members, the building may not prove large enough in the future. The answer which, I think, the architect and the Hon'ble Minister would give to that criticism would be that the building has been so designed that, with a minimum of alteration, it could be expanded to accommodate three hundred members, while it has been so sited that, if necessary, a second Chamber could be erected within the same precincts.

It is, perhaps, permissible, and may not be uninteresting, if, on an occasion like this, I pause for a moment to recall the series of buildings, some of them now lost to us, which have provided accommodation for law-making bodies in this Presidency during the last 150 years. Leaving aside the scene of the "consultations" of the early fathers of the Settlement,—the "factory" of the old Fort William, long since swept away to make room for the existing Customs House and General Post Office,—we have first the *old* Council House,—Mr. Richard Court's House, bought for the purpose by the Company in 1758, and located by Lord Curzon as having been near the junction of the present Koilaghat and Bankshall streets. Warren Hastings

sat in Council in that house, but it was not here that he and Barwell waged their historic warfare with Francis and his allies: these battles almost certainly took place in the *new* Council House sanctioned in 1764 and built on a part of the site in Esplanade now covered by Government House. This "*new* Council House" was in turn cleared away by Lord Wellesley in 1799 to make room for the present Government House and it is from the Council Chamber of the latter, well-known to many present here to-day, that twenty-three Governors-General in succession presided over the deliberations of their legislatures which from the sixties onwards definitely took the form of a Legislative Council.

The Bengal Legislative Council was first set up as a separate entity in 1862 and appears to have sat in a room of the then Government of India, Legislative Department, close to the Town Hall. On the completion of the Rotunda built by Sir Ashley Eden at the west end of Writers' Buildings, the Bengal Legislative Council moved there in 1883 and the Rotunda remained its home till 1910 when it moved, first to the Durbar Hall at Belvedere and and then three years later, to the Council Chamber at Government House, vacated by the Imperial Legislative Council on the removal of the capital to Delhi.

The Council, which in 1862 had consisted of only twelve members, all nominated, and in 1892 of twenty nominated members, of whom half were officials, had by 1913 expanded to a body of fifty with an elected majority representing definite constituencies, such as the Calcutta Corporation,

Calcutta University, the landholders, the Muhammadans and the tea industry. The Reforms of 1921 led to a reconstitution of the Council in the form and size in which we have it to-day. Such a Council could not be accommodated in the Council Chamber at Government House and to meet the situation the upper storey of the Town Hall was rented, till the Council should have its own building. It would be superfluous for me to dwell in present company on the defects which the Town Hall—historic and beautiful old building as it is—presents from the point of view of an up-to-date legislative building. However, I hope that the experience of the last ten years is reflected in the improved amenities of our new building, so that Honourable Members of this House may feel to-day that their past tribulations have not been in vain.

To-day's ceremony marks an important stage of development in the self-governing institutions in Bengal. This beautiful building signifies something more than a meeting place for the Legislative Council of Bengal. It stands as a symbol of the progress of India. Nearly a hundred years have passed since Lord Macaulay speaking in the House of Commons said—"It may be that the public mind of India may expand under our system till it has outgrown that system; that by good Government we may educate our subjects into a capacity for better Government; that having become instructed in European knowledge they may, in some future age, demand European institutions; whether such a day will ever come I know not. Whenever it comes, it will be a proud day in English history."

During the century that has passed since those words were spoken, India has been moving step by step to the realisation of what in Macaulay's day seemed but the phantasm of a dream. Upon her ancient institutions have been grafted the legislative conceptions of the west. This building is a testimony that successive promises honestly made have been honestly redeemed. In its stone and concrete it expresses the conviction that the new order will endure ; for as far ahead as can be seen, the elected representatives of the Indian peoples will meet to legislate for the needs of India.

There can be no more convincing expression of faith than the erection of this building. In political controversies we hear too much of doubt about the sincerity of promises that are made. Whatever may be said in the heat of debate or in manœuvring for position, the fact remains that Bengal has determined on this home for its legislature and has carried it through while men are discussing the drafting of constitutions.

There is here the conviction that there will be no going back, and that parliamentary institutions have been established as a permanent part of the Government of India. This building provides signal evidence of the co-operation of the races. In its architecture we have a happy adaptation of the traditional forms of Indian art to the needs of western methods of legislation. In its construction men of the two races have borne their parts, and with local materials have modified European models for a legislative building, to the exigencies of a tropical climate. We see in the ceremony of to-day the passing from the temporary and the transitional

to the permanent in the legislative institutions in India. We are marking a new era in India's life. I doubt not that as we enter this building to-day, the hope will arise in the breasts of all that we stand on the threshold of a new and brighter era in the relations which must exist between those whom destiny has charged with the combined responsibility of India's welfare and we pray that those who will labour within the walls of this building as representatives of the people may be endowed with sagacity, wisdom, justice and tolerance which may guide them to decisions beneficial to Bengal and all its people.

Two-and-a-half years ago it was my privilege to declare the foundation stone of this building "well and truly laid." It is very gratifying to me to have the honour of taking part to-day in the opening ceremony of the completed building for the new Council House for Bengal.

May it ever stand firm and well and truly serve its purpose.

***His Excellency's Speech at the unveiling
of the Statue erected to the memory of
the Rt. Hon. E. S. Montagu in the
Legislative Council Building, on 9th
February 1931.***

GENTLEMEN,

I much appreciate the invitation which you have extended to me to unveil the Statue which has been erected to the memory of the Rt. Hon. Edwin Samuel Montagu. You, Sir Rajendra, have just told us the motive which actuated some of his friends in India to determine to perpetuate his memory. Mr. Montagu held numerous prominent positions in Government, the most important being his last, that of Secretary of State for India from 1917 to 1922; during which period he introduced and carried through Parliament the Government of India Act of 1919. As you have said, this Act conferred the first measure of responsibility in self-government on India and heralded further advance which at the present moment is under contemplation. During his period of office as Secretary of State for the purpose of studying on the spot conditions prevailing in India, he visited this country in the winter of 1920. This, I understand, was the first recorded instance of the Secretary of State visiting India in his official capacity, just as I believe also this is the first instance of a statue being erected in India to a Secretary of State. It appears to be very fitting that at the same time that we declare open the first permanent home of the Legislative Council of Bengal, we should honour the memory of the man

to whose lot it fell to announce to Parliament the formula which Parliament eventually accepted indicating the policy to be pursued by the British Government—viz., “the gradual development of self-governing Institutions with a view to the progressive realisation of responsible Government of India as an integral part of the British Empire.”

It was my good fortune to be present, as a member of the House of Commons, on the occasion of this announcement, and to follow the progress of the Act through Parliament until it became law and embodied the present constitution of India. I can, therefore, testify to the courage and sincerity with which Mr. Montagu strove to help India towards this attainment of her greater political freedom. It is of special interest to know that Mr. Montagu was assisted during all this period by the late Lord Sinha who was created a Peer and as Under Secretary of State for India, conducted the Bill through the House of Lords. As you, Sir Rajendra, have pointed out, Lord Sinha was President of the Committee which was formed in 1925 and raised the necessary funds to meet the cost of this Statue. Lord Sinha's association with Mr. Montagu enabled him to appreciate his efforts for India and I can well understand his anxiety to perpetuate his service.

Mr. Montagu dedicated his life to the achievement of what he believed to be not only justice to India but in the best interests of the Empire. I feel somehow that the man who was so obviously inspired by the desire to do what he could to ensure his conceptions of justice to the legitimate political aspirations of India being fulfilled, was offended—

possibly mortally—by what he regarded as ingratitude as evidenced by the opposition manifested in certain directions in India, to what he saw was in itself a great beginning and what he was convinced should be the precursor of greater advance in the future. .

A permanent memorial within the precincts of this compound can be claimed as a right of very few men : but Mr. Montagu's love for India and his endeavours for her welfare and progress may fairly justify this perpetuation of his memory.

His Excellency's Address at the Legislative Council meeting on 9th February 1931.

GENTLEMEN,

I think I have more than the customary reasons for wishing to take advantage of my privilege of addressing the Council to-day. The Council meets under new and unaccustomed conditions and Hon'ble Members may experience a sense of satisfaction, and indeed exhilaration, which comes with the knowledge that one has passed from the temporary and transitional to the permanent. Whilst the Council met in the old building over the way, with all its associations with the changing life in Calcutta, it was linked with the memories of the past which it was itself transforming; but whilst so housed it could hardly feel its own significance. Under the new conditions it should gain confidence in itself through the knowledge that this is a permanent legislative Institution, suitable and ready for those developments and expansions which in due course must ensue.

The occasion is then indeed a historic one. The Council history of the last 10 years, during its occupancy of the Town Hall, provides the preface, and, as must be, working under conditions of unaccustomed responsibilities, the record of success has been a varying one. To-day you will meet to do your work under new conditions and more congenial surroundings, which should be an inspiration for greater Parliamentary achievement.

The surroundings in which one works must have an influence upon the results. It is possible, and indeed probable, that in the course of a short period this Council of Bengal will settle down in this building under a system of autonomous Government, carrying the weight of far greater responsibility than the people of India have ever known before, and begin to write the first chapter of its Parliamentary administration. In most Parliamentary Governments, in various countries in the world, tradition plays an important part. Parliamentary tradition you, in Bengal, have in the main still to make. Perhaps you will not regard it as out of place if one who has had a good number of years of continuous Parliamentary life suggests that it should be the first object of every one who is privileged to be a Member of this Council, to do his utmost to assist in building up that sound Parliamentary tradition which is a necessary safeguard for democratic Institutions. Traditionalism is strongly marked in every sphere of life in Bengal. Much that is written in Parliament is as an inscription on sand which disappears with the next tide; but that which is written in obedience to the higher law and the noblest aim, in the interests of Bengal, will remain and be handed down to posterity as an indelible tradition. Tradition must be tested by experience and the only tradition worth retaining is that which experience has shown to be worthy and reliable: for changing conditions often cause tradition to become anomalous and out-of-date, and tradition, blindly followed, may prove a hindrance and embarrassment rather than an assistance.

Gentlemen—Before coming to the business of the session, I have a message from the Viceroy which he has asked me to deliver to you on this historic occasion.

“I would ask you to convey to the members of the Bengal Legislative Council my warm congratulations on the occasion of the opening of their new Council Chamber. I trust that it may long be the home of wise deliberation, and of constant endeavour to promote the true welfare of the great Presidency of Bengal.”

You will be asked in this session to consider fresh legislation in connection with Local Self-Government. Bills will be presented dealing with Amendment of the Calcutta Improvement Act and the Amendment of the Asansol Mining Settlement Act. You also have before you a State Aid to Industries Bill. In view of the number of private Bills a considerable amount of time has had to be allotted for non-official business,—a fact which shows a commendable interest and activity in legislation on the part of private members.

If there is a matter for regret in connection with the opening of this House to-day, it is the unsatisfactory financial and economic position with which we are faced in Bengal at the moment. It is a fact, though by no means a cause for satisfaction, that the trouble extends not only to the rest of India, but throughout the world. Though our troubles are mainly due to world-wide economic distress, it is not possible to ignore the additional damaging effect of the civil disturbance which has unfortunately

pervaded the country during the last 12 months, and is bound to re-act with special hardship upon the very poor.

My Government has been much pre-occupied with the conditions prevailing in this Presidency owing to the exceptionally low price of two of our staple crops—Rice and Jute.

Many suggestions have reached Government as to how they might assist in remedying the underlying cause and also for relieving the economic position. Government have also conferred with representatives of various interests concerned. So far they have not been convinced that legislative action is advisable* or would be productive of practical results. Government have, however, organised a propaganda campaign with the object of persuading the cultivators of the necessity of immediate crop restriction. Reports indicate that the propaganda is reaching the cultivators and I suggest that it is highly desirable that Government's efforts should have the active support of Hon'ble Members and others of influence in the various districts concerned. Meanwhile, Government are endeavouring to meet immediate distress by means of agricultural loans and by assistance to public bodies who have undertaken relief work. It is a matter of satisfaction to know that the Government of India have decided to accept and give effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture and to set up a Central Jute Committee representative of the various interests concerned.

I do not wish to anticipate the Budget statement of the Hon'ble Finance Member which he will make in this House in the course of this month, but I

am, perhaps, not encroaching on his prerogative by referring to the serious shrinkage in revenue with the consequent prospect of a deficit of possibly over 50 lakhs as against budget anticipations.

In the circumstances Government have found it necessary to resort to drastic retrenchment, with the result that many desirable and urgent projects must be postponed and many deserving bodies must be deprived of assistance. We cannot but sympathise with the Hon'ble Ministers when their time is spent in searching for possible sources of retrenchment rather than in the more pleasant and profitable task of formulating schemes of a constructive nature. It is possible that my Hon'ble friends find it irksome to have to labour at such a disappointing task and to content themselves with the ordinary administrative work which their various departments demand. However, to meet this unfortunate situation, to which it is difficult definitely to ascribe the cause, the Hon'ble Ministers have laboured with great self-sacrifice and courageously faced realities in order to enable Government to meet the future which, I feel sure, must contain the promise of better times, and also to help the financial position which, though somewhat impaired, is still sound.

In these difficult and anxious times I have seen with much pleasure a notice of motion standing in the name of Mr. S. N. Bose which, I feel, augurs well for the future, and which will at once give this Council the opportunity of which they will not fail to take advantage of registering their appreciation of the results of the Round Table Conference held in London. I feel that you will

not misunderstand me when I suggest that a duty rests upon every member of this House to study with care, and as far as possible without prejudice, the statement of the Prime Minister made at the termination of the Conference. That statement presents the conclusions of His Majesty's Government as to the lines of advance to responsibility which the future Constitution for India should follow as a result of the discussions at the Conference. It is inconceivable to me that any man, either inside this House or out of it, will refuse, after fair study, to see in these proposals at least a fruitful basis for further discussion.

It cannot be too strongly emphasised that the next stage in settlement rests with India. Upon the foundation laid in London the superstructure of new forms of Government has to be erected. That cannot be done unless all parties and leaders in India are willing to apply themselves to the work. At this moment His Majesty's Government is considering the means by which the labours of the Conference can be brought to fruition. There is no stage in the process that does not call for the best help of all enlightened men in India.

I am not without hope that in the near future this assistance will be readily forthcoming and I think that in this honourable task of framing the constitution under which the safety, honour and welfare of India and her people must be assured, Bengal will lend a willing hand.

His Excellency's Speech at the annual meeting of the Kallimpong Homes, Calcutta Committee, on 13th February 1931.

GENTLEMEN,

It is always a pleasure to attend this annual meeting and to hear Dr. Graham's report on the progress of the St. Andrew's Colonial Homes and to have the opportunity of congratulating him upon the results of his great work.

This evening I should like to offer him my congratulations on the signal honour which has been conferred upon him by his appointment to the position of Moderator of the Church of Scotland General Assembly. This honour is a mark of appreciation of his great work not only for his Church, but also for the general community. He will be able to bring to the councils of the great Church, over which he is to preside, the benefits of an inspiration and guidance which are the direct results of a god-fearing life allied with great administrative experience. In the task which lies before you, Dr. Graham, you may be strengthened by the knowledge that the good wishes and prayers of all your friends will follow you wherever you may be.

We have all listened with interest to the report which has been presented and to the account which Dr. Graham has given us of the activities of the Colonial Homes. The Homes celebrated their thirtieth birthday during the year which has just closed and from all I hear I gather it was a very

happy birthday in spite of the difficulties of the times. The anxieties arising from the present world-wide depression are nowhere more acutely felt than in Institutions which depend largely for their income on the voluntary support of the public. Almost every Institution of the kind has the same tale to tell—of depleted resources and greater expenses: it is one of the tragedies of the situation that while receipts from Government and other sources tend to diminish, it is impossible to enhance the sum recoverable from parents as fees: rather the authorities are compelled to decide how far they can afford to keep, for greatly reduced fees or no fees at all, pupils whose parents are genuinely out of work owing to trade depression.

The difficulties which especially bear upon Kalimpong are two-fold. There is first of all the financial difficulty of making both ends meet. I see that at the meeting of the London Committee in October the Chairman, Lord Zetland, was at some pains to explain that the existence of the Laidlaw Bequest will not relieve the Homes of the necessity of finding the money for current day-to-day upkeep and most of the bequest, I understand, is already earmarked to finance a long overdue and much-needed Provident Fund for the Staff. I remember I referred to this question at the last annual meeting, but I want to make it plain that there is an increasing need rather than a diminishing one of subscriptions and I would appeal to all the friends of Kalimpong—indeed to all friends of noble work nobly performed on behalf of the young and helpless, not to withhold their support. I know

that times are bad, and it is Institutions such as Kalimpong which suffer most during bad times.

There is another difficulty with which the authorities at Kalimpong are faced. Knowing Dr. Graham has been accused of being inclined to trust on Providence to provide, but at the same time he knows from experience that Providence is apt to help them that help themselves—I can well believe that it is not so much the financial difficulty as this other which affords Dr. Graham his chief cause of anxiety at present. The special cause for anxiety is the difficulty—the almost insuperable difficulty at the present moment—of finding employment for the young men and girls who have completed their education at Kalimpong and are called upon in due course to bid farewell to their Home of many years and face the world comparatively alone. The communities for which the Homes for the most part exist had already been hard hit by the gradual narrowing of those spheres of Government service which for years had been regarded almost as their preserve. The remedy, as the Simon Report has pointed out, lies partly in offering and enabling the community in question to avail itself of better education all round, so that the domiciled Europeans and the Anglo-Indians will be able to compete on terms of equality with their Indian fellows in the pursuit of Government service, and partly in a widening of the field of employment for these communities, so that the gradual narrowing of their opportunities of serving under Government may be counter-balanced by greater openings in trade, commerce and the learned professions. It is just in this respect that the present world-wide

depression has such a prejudicial influence on Kalimpong. Apart from employment in India, the opportunities outside have largely been closed against the boys and girls during the last year or two. Thus New Zealand used, till quite recently, to absorb nearly all our girls and as many of our boys as were willing to go there and settle: now unemployment is so bad in Australia and New Zealand that we cannot in fairness let our boys and girls make their first effort in their working lives in the Antipodes. It is not from Kalimpong alone that I hear of this difficulty: I have heard it from educationalists both here and at home. As you said, Dr. Graham, the best help that can be given to Kalimpong at the present time, is to find posts for the young men and girls who are being turned out from there, admirably trained, to face the world, if only they can get the opportunity to make good.

I shall not detain you by commenting in detail on the reports which we have heard. Apart from the two difficulties to which I have referred, the affairs of the Homes seem to be in their usual flourishing condition. It is, I think, typical of that wide-awake and up-to-date spirit which governs the direction of this Institution that no sooner had the Kalimpong Ropeway Company installed a ropeway linking Kalimpong with the Teesta Valley branch of the railway than the Homes installed their own subsidiary ropeway to bring themselves in touch with the new method of communication opened.

His Excellency's Speech at the Yorkshire Society Dinner on 24th February 1931.

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am sure no one can be more pleased than Lady Jackson and myself to attend this dinner and to find ourselves amongst so many of our Yorkshire friends this evening. This gathering in itself brings many happy recollections of our lives in Yorkshire, but when I listened to your speech in which you gave us so eloquent a description of the county of Broad Acres, I was not only very proud of being a Yorkshireman, but it convinced me more than ever that there could be no place like it on earth. The wonderful beauties of the country-side, the moorlands and dales with a crisp, clear and invigorating air, the rugged cliffs and surging seas and the activities in the towns and cities,—some I fear not so beautiful or so clean, present a picture which we can all appreciate, and living in our present surroundings is sure to inspire a justified emotion. The combination of sunshine and shadow has produced a sturdy race of people who have made their presence felt in countless directions in all parts of the British Empire.

I appreciated your reference to the qualities of the Yorkshiremen which enabled them to face adversity with indifference to the extent of refusing to put off their dinner even by an earthquake. It reminded me of that celebrated character in the war—old Bill, who must have been a Yorkshireman, possessed and when shot through the helmet merely asked—Who did that? I certainly hope with you that we shall not be called upon to live up to our

reputation by indulging in post-prandial eloquence amongst the ruins of India during the next 12 months. I am inclined to agree with you that this should not happen provided the British people continue to guide and control the destinies of this country, though I am not quite so satisfied what may happen if the guiding hand is too soon entirely withdrawn. It would appear that those whose lot is cast in India do not contemplate such a possibility. I have been rather surprised at the comparative complacency with which proposals and counter-proposals for the future government of India have been received by the British people in India. I hope their trust will be fully appreciated by those upon whom must rest the final recommendations to Parliament for the future position of the British under the new constitution for India.

I am afraid Yorkshire has been passing through a bad time lately and we are able to appreciate how much that smoky atmosphere in the cities of Yorkshire of which we have all at times complained, means to the happiness of the people. To-day the chimneys are not smoking and the atmosphere is too clear. Short-time and unemployment are almost universal. It needs all those qualities, which have helped us to face adversity in the past, to face the present conditions. However, the turn of the tide must come and prosperity will return once more to our beloved land.

I am glad to hear your good report of the progress of the Society. It was a great pleasure to meet you at the delightful evening reception which was given to the Viceroy. I felt I was there in false colours—I certainly ought to have been one of

the hosts in Calcutta. I know he enjoyed it and this expression of good-will of brother Yorkshiremen must have been an encouragement in his exacting task.

I was interested to hear of your cricket matches with our friends from Lancashire. I understand they found it necessary to obtain the assistance of Cheshire for the occasion. It reminds me of those thrilling struggles in which I was privileged to take part at Branall Lane and Leeds and old Trafford. I seem to remember that on those occasions Lancashire invariably had the assistance of some from other counties including Yorkshire and not infrequently Australia. I mean no offence. They were always within the rules, but it made me proud of the decision of Yorkshire to stick to men born and bred within her boundaries. We always got on well—an honour I value as much as any when Lancashire County Cricket Club made me a life member.

I have heard numerous qualities ascribed to and claimed by Yorkshiremen, some complimentary and others the reverse. I have heard them described as hard-headed, blunt, wily, or trustful. I have also heard them referred to as being suspicious, selfish and careful.

Once more I must assure you of our pleasure in meeting you to-night and express the hope that there will be a ready response to the request which the Chairman made for continued interest and support of the Society. It can do nothing but good and may it long continue to thrive and prosper!

***His Excellency's Speech at the laying of
the Foundation stone of the Muslim
Institute, Calcutta, on 26th February
1931. .***

MR. PRESIDENT, MR. NAZIMUDDIN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It gives me great pleasure to come here this morning to lay the foundation stone of the New Muslim Institute. The Calcutta Madrassah was, I understand, the first institution established by the Hon'ble East India Company for the education of the people of this country: it was, in fact, established, and for the first 18 months of its existence entirely maintained, by Warren Hastings himself and it may be of interest to note that at the outset—that is in the year 1780,—provision was made for forty scholars and a staff confined to a “Preceptor” on Rs. 300 a month and a sweeper on Rs. 3. From this small start the Madrassah has grown, not without vicissitudes, to its present proportions and, I think, I may claim that throughout its career it has enjoyed in a special measure the interest and support of Government.

The Madrassah was originally set up for the “instruction of young students in Muhammadan Law and in such other sciences as are taught in the Muhammadan schools” and the pursuit of the traditional Arabic studies has been faithfully persevered with in the Madrassah to this day. It is very fitting that there should be in Bengal at least one institution where those who desire to do so may

find facilities for undergoing a course of orthodox Islamic study. I would, however, remind you that the particular objects which your founder had in mind embraced not only the pursuit of learning for its own sake, but the provision of a nursery of Muhammadan officers for the service of Government, and for this purpose,—now-a-days, if not in 1780,—a more general education is required than would be supplied by the Arabic Department alone. This aim is also fully provided for in your constitution and you have here and in the neighbouring Islamia College all the facilities for the attainment of that sound general education which should be part of the necessary equipment not only of the Government servant but of the ordinary citizen of to-day.

In this general education an institution like the Muslim Institute can and should play a great part. One of the great differences between school or college life in India and its counterpart in the west is the insistence in India that a very great part of the student's time shall be spent in the lecture room and pouring over text-books. To many educationists this appears to be one of the gravest defects of Indian education: the accumulation of a store of text-book facts and ready-made opinions is a poor substitute for the mental development that comes from free and informal intercourse with teachers and fellow students.

A famous Oxford tutor used to be fond of saying "You don't come to Oxford to learn: you come to Oxford to get into touch with great minds." It is by such intercourse that you will develop the interest and the faculties which will enable you to extract some real gain from the lecture room and

the text-book, and it is for the facilities that they afford for such intercourse that the Muslim Institute and its sister institution, the Calcutta University Institute, are valued and supported by Government and by public opinion to-day. They offer a valuable corrective to the rather one-sided conception of college life which have hitherto prevailed in our schools and Universities.

And this, I am glad to recognise, was plainly the view of those to whom the Muslim Institute owes its origin. I have listened with great interest to your President's account of the founding, so long as 31 years ago, of the two associations from which the present Institute has grown. Their names describe their objects—Debate and Mutual Improvement—and I am glad to learn that the aims of the parent institutions are steadily pursued by you to-day. By lectures, discussions, debates and games the Institute endeavours in a very true sense to “educate” the Moslem youth of Calcutta and of Bengal for the great part which it will be called upon in the near future to play in the affairs of this Province. I have referred already to the fact that your founder,* Warren Hastings, regarded his new school rather in the light of a nursery for Government officers. As in the past, so also in the future, the students of this Madrassah will, I trust, obtain a proper share in the ranks of the public services of the Province: but a wider sphere of service is opening before the young men of Bengal. In the constitutional changes which are upon us there will be a need for men of all communities who shall be trained and equipped for public life,—not merely as Ministers or as Members of the Legislature, but also

simply as citizens,—as members of the electorate. Bengal will require of the coming generation that they shall be strong in character, ready of address and sturdy in conviction. You, who enjoy the advantages of a higher education, will be called upon to play your part, perhaps, in guiding the destinies of this Province and even of India as a whole, but certainly in forming and developing that healthy and informed public opinion which is the only justification for democracy and its principal safeguard.

It is fitting that the beginning of this new era will find the Muslim Institute worthily housed in its new home. Though your membership varies in a remarkable way from year to year I can well believe that you have outgrown your present quarters and that these, designed as they were for quite other uses, do not ideally perform the functions of a students' institute. I understand that your new premises have been designed to meet those requirements of intellectual, social and physical culture which are the necessary ingredients of college education properly understood. I am glad to see that provision has been made for a gymnasium. This will prove a very welcome addition to the activities of your Institute. There are disquieting signs that the physique of your community is not what it should be and if the Institute can do something towards the physical regeneration of its members it will be performing a great and lasting service to the Moslems of Bengal.

There will also, no doubt, be suitable accommodation for a library. As regards your library it seems to me that in the annual reports of the Institute

I find rather too often the remark—"it is to be noted that owing to shortage of funds no addition could be made to the number of books." Yet I am told that the library is, as it should be, a popular feature of the institution. I feel very strongly that an institution of this kind ought to possess a first class library,—if not a general library (though that is in itself most desirable), at least a library on those Islamic subjects which are the special interest of your community. You cannot build up a library in a day. But I would seriously suggest for your consideration whether from the date of the laying of this foundation stone you should not take steps to create a tradition that every member of your Institute will do his best to increase the library and with that end in view will try to present one volume to it. You might have to set up a competent authority with power to accept or reject the books offered, so as to ensure that you got the right kind of books in your Library. In that way you would in the course of a few years become possessed of a library of which you might be proud. I can think of no better thank—offering for benefits derived from the society here enjoyed and for the cultural facilities provided by this Institute than that every student on passing his degree examinations should do his best to present a volume to the Library. It is by the benefactions of their *alumni* that the great Universities of the West (both in Europe and America) have become so richly equipped and endowed: and the existence of such a tradition would do much to foster a proper spirit of pride in their own Institute among the former pupils of this Madrassah and of the Islamia College.

You ask, Mr. President, in the course of your interesting address, that Government should, in due course, provide funds for the furnishing and equipping of this new building. Government have provided the money for the building and this fact may, I think, be taken as an earnest that any application for a grant towards its furnishing will receive full consideration. You will not, however, expect me at this—the foundation stone—stage of your building to make any promise that Government will be able to give you the money to furnish it when completed. Government have, as you know, lately spent large sums on the Muslim Hall at Dacca and the money at the disposal of Government for schemes of this kind is, at the present time, very limited. I would advise you, however, to lose no time in coming up with detailed proposals to Government so as to ensure for them ample time for consideration. And so far as the gymnasium goes, if you will remind me when that part of the building has taken shape, I may be able to give you some help towards the equipment of that important feature of the Institution.

Now, gentlemen, I do not propose to detain you longer at this early hour. I shall now proceed to lay the foundation stone of this Muslim Institute in the confident hope that in doing so I am assisting at the erection of a building which will be of lasting benefit, morally, intellectually and physically, to the Muslim students of this Presidency.

His Excellency's Speech at the Calcutta University Convocation, on 28th February 1931.

MR. VICE-CHANCELLOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

At the outset it is my pleasant duty to offer to you my sincere congratulations upon your appointment as Vice-Chancellor of this University. There can be few posts in this Presidency which carry greater responsibility and which make greater demands upon the time and efforts of the individual than that of Vice-Chancellor. In view of the important positions which you hold in other directions, I can understand the hesitation to which you have referred in your speech to undertake the additional duties of Vice-Chancellor, but having once decided to accept the responsibility, I know there is no question that you will devote yourself unselfishly and whole-heartedly to the work and I wish you all success.

You are the first member of the community to which you belong to have attained this honour. Your appointment to this high position should be an encouragement to the Muhammadans in this Presidency to remedy that backwardness in educational status which is exemplified by the figures you quoted in your speech just now. Your honourable record, your industry and your cheerful personality should assure for you the respect of the students and your administrative experience and ability should prove of value in the conduct of the affairs of this University. Whilst welcoming you to the Chair, I desire to tender to your predecessor,

Dr. Urquhart, my personal appreciation of the great service he rendered to this University during his two years of office. He brought to bear upon the University life an exceptional educational experience. His scholarly attainments together with a sympathetic devotion to the interests of this University appealed to all and assured him of that support which enabled him to discharge his onerous duties with success and general advantage to the University. It was fitting that his services should be recognised by the conferment upon him of the honorary degree of Doctor of Law.

I listened to your excellent and instructive speech with much interest. In it you have presented an exhaustive review of the activities of the University during the past year. I shall, as far as possible, avoid traversing the ground which you have already gone over, but there are some matters in your speech to which it is necessary for me to refer.

I should wish to associate myself with your expressions of regret and sympathy at the loss, during the past year, of those eminent sons of Bengal and members of this University to which you have referred. The decision to confer honorary degrees upon Sir Rajendra Nath Mookerjee, Dr. Heramba Chandra Moitra and Dr. Bentley will, I feel sure, be received with general satisfaction and pleasure. It is my privilege to be personally acquainted with all of them and I feel that it would have been difficult to find any in our midst whose record of service in their own particular spheres could be regarded as more deserving of the honour.

It was a source of special gratification to me to have the privilege of presenting to Sir Venkata Raman the Hughes Medal awarded for special scientific research and I should like to take this opportunity of assuring him of the great satisfaction which has been universally felt at the bestowal upon him of the unique distinction of the Nobel Prize. I desire also to offer our congratulations to Professor Radha Krishnan on his selection to deliver the Hibert Lectures at Oxford and also on his selection as representative of India on the Committee of Intellectual Co-operation of the League of Nations.

As you have said, an outstanding event of the academic year has been the completion of the labours of the University Organisation Committee. The appointment of such a Committee had become inevitable, if only by reason of the vigorous growth of post-graduate studies and research. The scheme devised by Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee has passed from infancy to maturity and the necessity of ensuring a stable system for the future, based upon the experience of the past, had become acute. The investigations of the Committee were necessary as much for the academic welfare of the University as its economic administration. Our thanks are due to the Committee and a special measure of praise must be extended to Dr. Urquhart who presided. To his energy and guidance the success attendant on the labours of this Committee is in no small measure due. I trust that the very comprehensive changes proposed in the report will make for the effective development and control of the post-graduate side of the University life. The financial

implications of the report have not yet been placed before me—indeed, I understand the examination of them has not yet been completed, but it will be readily appreciated that, however desirable in themselves the proposed reforms may be, Government will no doubt consider it necessary in the present state of the Provincial finances to scrutinise with the greatest care any proposals which involve an increased demand on public revenues. It is, however, widely realised that considerable modifications are called for in the present scheme of control and organisation and I hope to see the fullest co-operation between Government and the University in seeking a solution of the present problem consistent with economy and academic efficiency.

I have naturally been watching with anxiety the conditions prevailing not only in this Presidency but throughout India during the past year. It was obvious that as a result of trade depression and civil disobedience the revenues of the Province would be seriously diminished which would involve retrenchment in all directions. As Chancellor, I realise that the prosperity of this University must re-act on the prosperity of the Presidency, and we have, all of us, reason for concern when we see the revenues being so seriously diminished.

You have referred in some detail, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, to the financial difficulties of the University. The subject is complex and not free from controversial issues, but in view of the request I have received by a Resolution of the Syndicate to receive a deputation on this subject, it would be inadvisable for me to refer at length to this question to-day. Let me say at once that I welcome the

opportunity which such an occasion should afford me of hearing direct from the representatives of the University a full statement of their financial position to-day and the proposals which they may wish to make for meeting it. I shall be glad to receive a deputation on the subject in the early future.

I listened, not without some concern, to your remarks as regards the health and physical welfare of the students of the University. Your remarks, coming as they do from one who is eminently qualified to speak on the subject, must command serious attention. I was particularly impressed by your condemnation of the students' places of residence which (including even some of the "approved" hostels and messes) you have characterised as "appallingly bad, unhealthy, congested and over-crowded." I must admit that I see no royal road to the eradication of the evils either of malnutrition or of bad housing to which you refer, but the question is one which the University and the Colleges cannot afford to overlook and I am sure that, within the limits of their financial resources, they will give the most careful consideration to any scheme of amelioration which can be developed and put into effect under your expert guidance.

I have on a previous occasion referred to the problem of unemployment of students when they have completed their University course. I listened to the Vice-Chancellor's remarks on this subject with much interest. I fear I know nothing of the value of psycho-analytical examination, nor how far the possibilities of a scheme such as suggested by the Vice-Chancellor have been explored in India,

but any process which can divert a student to that course for which he is best fitted sounds eminently attractive. I cannot help feeling that many young men waste their time struggling for examinations in subjects for which they are not suited and for professions which are already more than full. If psycho-analysis can help to direct the footsteps of the student when his higher education is still before him, the problem of employment should be half solved. I should like to know what the possibilities are of error in the diagnosis: I shudder to think of the danger of a small error which might divert a budding Raman from his pursuit of scientific truth to the career of a conjuror or illusionist. Psycho-analysis at all events would appear to provide unsuccessful examinees with an admirable excuse for failure. However, I am told that experiments by psycho-analytical examination have proved to be successful in other countries.

It seems to me that the fundamental principle on which we should base our efforts to deal with this question of unemployment among our educated classes, is not so much the finding of posts for our graduates when we have trained them, but the training of our students for the world they have to live in. That is why I personally welcome the Vice-Chancellor's proposal, for his line of attack is fundamentally in the right direction and the chief question is how far it can be made to work in practice.

Tradition and routine are at once the strength and the weakness of all established Institutions: the strength, because they ensure continuity and provide the frame-work for the living tissue—the

weakness, because the weight of the past may smother the energies of the present and a skeleton may do duty for the quick and vivid soul. It is well, then, that we should ask from time to time questions that probe deeper than order and organisation, that lay bare the foundations and search the heart. I wish to ask one such question: what is the aim of a University at this time and in this country?

None of us can fully answer this question—certainly I cannot. But we will all, perhaps, agree that a modern University has two broad objects. The first is to safeguard and augment the legacy of knowledge, to keep it alive and alert, to save it from becoming stereotyped and formal. I do not under-rate this aim, but I think it is sufficiently recognised and, indeed, it is enshrined in the very motto of this University: The Advancement of Learning. All of us must rejoice to note the indications that this motto is still an active inspiration and acclaim the broadening spirit of enquiry and research, the increasing provision of Professorships, laboratories and libraries, the important work already done, the work now in prospect.

I do feel, however, that a University has a more practical utility. Of a hundred who enter its doors, probably only one can look forward to a life to be spent in the service of pure inquiry, as pioneer in the uncharted seas and untravelled lands of knowledge. The others must find their daily work in some more conventional and less exciting business. A University has a duty to these too, not only to give them that basis of

general education which will make their principles more sound and their sympathies more generous, but to fit them in some measure for their respective avocations.

The customs of this country make this task difficult. Learning has been too largely literary or philosophical and its practical implications for common life tend to be neglected. The system of mass production, the inhibitions of caste, the lure of the beaten track, these and other causes lead the great majority of University students to law, teaching or the service of the State. All these are necessary and worthy professions, but they are over-crowded and offer prizes only to the few. The time has surely come for students to turn in large numbers to the vast and more sparsely occupied fields of applied science. I once heard Science described as "an entrancing pursuit of the atom and the star," it is not only that: it is a study many of the results of which can solve the problems and fulfil the needs of everyday life. Some years ago, there was a marked flow in this University towards scientific subjects, but if this is now decreasing, it may be because enough energy and enterprise have not been forthcoming in the application of scientific knowledge. There is room yet for Engineers and Architects, for prospectors and metallurgists, for men who will use modern methods and achievements in the innumerable branches of technical industry. If we are wise, our own foresight and prudence and patriotism will be as active as the pressure of economic necessity in guiding many more of the ablest students into these less crowded spheres of activity.

And now it remains for me only to congratulate those who have to-day taken their degrees. Some of you will pursue your training further in the fields of post-graduate research and study: others, perhaps, most of you, to-day complete a stage of your lives,—the preparation stage—and stand on the threshold of the careers for which all that has gone before has been designed to fit you. To all I wish every success. .

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the Y. M. C. A. on 10th March 1931.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is always a pleasure to me to be present at your annual meeting and to hear the report of your year's work. I appreciate this opportunity of meeting your officials and members and of assuring you of my continued interest in the work of the Y. M. C. A.

After the admirable appreciations to which we have just had the pleasure of listening from Mr. Watson and Colonel Subrawardy, it would be superfluous for me to add much in the way of general praise of the aims and scope of the Y. M. C. A. ..

Social Service is the primary object of the Y. M. C. A., and the training of young men in this ideal and to instil in them the spirit of the service of others is its aim. Such service is, like mercy, a blessing to him that gives as much as to him that receives. You will wish that the success of your Association may be judged by the spirit of service which inspires the members. Your Y. M. C. A. Hostel is not a mere boarding-house: it is, or should be, a centre of social service. In this respect a Y. M. C. A. hostel is different from most other hostels, and judged by this measure you have, it seems to me, every reason to be satisfied with the results of last year's work. In India at this moment we need something of the spirit which inspires your social work—the spirit which recognises that all have

some contribution to make to the common stock of well-being : that there is room for all colours and religions to work, and to work together, in the service of the less fortunate in this vast land.

You have come through a difficult year with credit and may legitimately look for even better results in the period of better political and racial feeling which we hope is ahead of us. My experience of the work of the Y. M. C. A. and of similar democratic Institutions and movements has convinced me that their success turns to a great extent on the personality of those who lead and guide them locally. And if, as I believe, the position of the Association here in Calcutta is as good to-day as it has ever been, it is because you have good men at the helm of the Association—men, whom not only the members themselves but also the general public of this city respect and trust. The successful prosecution of the aims of the Association, and, indeed, the expansion of its activities, are matters from which the city, as a whole, stands to gain.

The Y. M. C. A. is normally self-supporting to a greater extent than most organisations of the kind. By means of its membership subscriptions and its hostel and other rents, coupled with great economy in administration, it almost pays its way : its social services are given gratis to the public. There is, however, each year a balance which has to be met by means of an appeal to the Association's members and to the wider public. This year that balance is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 17,000. Larger sums than this have been raised from year to year in the past and this year's demand has been cut to Rs. 17,000 only by reason of the

most drastic economy in expenditure. I would urge the public of Calcutta to maintain their fine tradition of support to the good work this Institution is doing. Times are bad, I know : but work such as is done by the Y. M. C. A. must go on,—indeed in times of trade depression like those through which we are passing its opportunities are greater and its work more readily appreciated. It is legitimate to hope that with the clearing of the political horizon some of our commercial troubles will also pass away : but whether it be so or not, I feel on safe ground in commending the Y. M. C. A. to the warm support of the people of Calcutta. Though it takes its stand frankly on the basis of Christianity, it welcomes men of all faiths to share in its privileges and in the services which it renders to youth irrespective of colour or creed. If anyone wants to know why one should support the Y. M. C. A., I suggest its past record and its objects well carried out of developing young men and boys in body, mind and spirit : its efforts to create mutual understanding and good-will amongst the different races and religions and the help and hope it brings to the down and out. And I cannot forget that the welfare of our soldiers is one of their principal interests and the work done for them at the Ronaldshay Hut must of itself afford cogent grounds for supporting the Association.

I deeply regret to hear, for the first time to-night, of the impending loss to Calcutta and to the Association of Mr. and Mrs. MacCowan. They will leave behind them many friends and a record of service of which they may well be proud. We shall not forget them.

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have been making an appeal for funds to keep the good work going, and it is only right that I should practise what I have preached and lead the way with a donation. I am very happy to give Rs. 250 to the Association's Funds.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the Tuberculosis Association on 20th March 1931.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is a great pleasure to me to be present at your second annual general meeting and to hear at first hand of the work that the Tuberculosis Association is doing in this Presidency, and to distribute Health Visitors' certificates.

From the annual report which has been circulated and from the remarks which have just been made, two things stand out as real and urgent—the excellence of the work which is already being done by the Association and the necessity for its continuance and extension.

One must be struck on reading the Report by the fact that much of the work, both of organisation and on the technical side, is being carried on by voluntary effort: voluntary workers,—whether Secretaries and organisers or Doctors and X-Ray workers,—lend a willing hand. Apart altogether from the appalling need for the work, as shown by statistics, one cannot but be predisposed in favour of a Society which calls forth such ungrudging service from busy professional men and women.

I regret to learn of the losses among its helpers which the Association has sustained during the year. I would particularly associate myself with what has been said in the annual report regarding Mrs. Forrester and Dr. Bentley who were in many respects the founders of your Association, and the late Rai Bahadur Chuni Lal Bose, one of your

earliest sympathisers and office-bearers. On the other hand you are to be congratulated on the new accessions to the ranks of your voluntary workers, and in particular you are fortunate in having had in Mrs. Remfry one so well qualified to succeed Mrs. Forrester in the onerous post of Honorary Secretary. A very great debt of gratitude is due to Mrs. Remfry and her band of voluntary workers who, whether in the dispensary, the X-Ray room or the lecture room or again by organising the sale of Christmas seals and other methods of raising funds, have made possible the work which is now being carried on in the fight against tuberculosis in Bengal.

I must congratulate also the Health Visitors upon whom falls the bulk of the practical work of the Association. From the two dispensaries at present open the work has radiated to such effect that during the year under review 8,000 houses have been visited and 13,000 families have received instruction in hygiene. These figures speak for themselves. With only two dispensaries to work from and with the difficulties which at present exist in securing admission for diagnosed cases into hospitals, this house-visiting work must at present form the greatest of your activities. Undoubtedly a great deal can be accomplished through this means alone, and I am glad to see that the work of the Health Visitors is both preventive and curative.

Of the need for the work which the Association is doing I think it is unnecessary for me to say much: the fact to which your annual report calls attention,—that there are known to be a million

people in Bengal who are suffering from tuberculosis,—coupled with the fact that the greater part of this suffering is entirely preventable, constitutes sufficient justification for the existence of this Association. Prevention and, in the early stages at all events, cure really lie in the hands of the people themselves and you have, therefore, taken a big step towards the eradication of tuberculosis in this Province when you succeed in arousing that interest in your work which will lead people to apply to you for advice and help.

Such inquiries, I am glad to see, are now pouring in from all corners of the Province. You may not be able immediately to give them practical assistance: one realises how greatly anti-tuberculosis work must be handicapped by the absence of sanatoria and of hospitals with tuberculosis wards: but you have called attention to the need: you have set an example down here of what can be done by voluntary efforts: it is not too much to hope that municipalities elsewhere in Bengal will follow the lead which Howrah has given through your Association.

The Society is at present admittedly only touching the fringe of the evil: Howrah is the only municipality which supports a tuberculosis dispensary run by the Association, and only one ward out of 32 in this great city of Calcutta has such a dispensary. The dispensary is the centre from which your work of education and cure should radiate and the time will soon come, I hope, when at least every district headquarters station will have provided itself with such a dispensary. In the meantime we must consolidate the ground

already won and extend our gains as opportunity offers. In one direction opportunity seems to me to offer at this moment. I gather from your annual report that the Association has already received the offer both of suitable quarters and of trained assistance to open and carry on a new dispensary in Burrabazar. The work cannot be started until a sum of Rs. 4,000 is added to the Association's funds. We ought not to let this opportunity slip: if the work can be started we can, I am sure, rely upon its very success to ensure its continuance for the future. I am afraid this is a bad time to ask Government for financial assistance, but your success will enable you to make a strong claim on Government when money is available. In the meantime, by way of giving a start towards the collection of the additional Rs. 4,000 needed for the opening of a dispensary in Burrabazar, I shall be very pleased to give to the Association the sum of Rs. 500.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, there is still some business to be transacted and I will not stand any longer in the way of its being done. I will only conclude by offering my congratulations to those to whom I have this evening presented the Association's certificates and by assuring you all of my sympathy and warmest wishes for the success of the great work to which you are so unselfishly devoting yourselves.

His Excellency's Speech at the Prize-distribution of the Barrackpore Park Government School, on 22nd March 1931.

MR. HEADMASTER, TEACHERS AND BOYS,

Last year I was unfortunately prevented from being present on the occasion of the annual prize-giving and I had to send you a message through Lady Jackson. I am happy to be able to renew this year what is now a time-honoured custom for the Governor to meet the staff and students of the Governor's School at Barrackpore in this historic Park.

I must first take the opportunity of welcoming you, Headmaster, to your new charge which you took over in November last. You have probably been able to appreciate already in the short time that you have been here that the long history attaching to this school, with its high traditions and creditable achievement, entitles it to be regarded as no ordinary school and that its record is one of which those connected with it have reason to be proud. I feel sure that under your able leadership the school will maintain, and I hope improve, its past record, and you may be assured of the continued interest which I and Lady Jackson have taken in the school during the time we have been in Bengal.

The year through which we have passed has been full of difficulty and anxiety and has provided a test both to the students and those whose duty it is to look after their welfare. I am glad to hear

that on the whole the Governor's School has come out of the ordeal well. The tribute which you, Headmaster, pay to your predecessor and to those local gentlemen who assisted him in the exercise of control during this time is no doubt well deserved. However, as this school claims the title of the Governor's School it is expected that it will be able to avoid being dragged into any wave of unrest and indiscipline which from time to time may make its appearance.

You referred in the report to the condition of the school buildings. I am afraid it is true that though regarded as adequate at the time, long ago, when they were erected, they are not in accordance with modern views on the requirements of school accommodation. I wish I could say that there was some chance of their being re-built in the near future. I am afraid, however, that I can promise you nothing on that account this year: like Governments the world over, we are being forced to cut down our expenditure for the present to the barest necessities of administration. The tide must turn some time, but it would be dangerous to say that the depression has yet passed its worst. All that I can promise is that the needs of your school will not be forgotten: when Government once more has money to put in hand some of the very desirable schemes, which it would like to take up, the improvement of your school buildings will be considered along with the rest.

I am glad to see that the attention given in your school to organised games is properly maintained. The poor physique of so large a proportion of our students in Bengal is a source of anxiety to me.

The high figures of attendance in this school speak well for the health of the pupils and all that I would say is that if your buildings are bad, the more you can get the boys out into the open air the better it will be for them. I am particularly interested in what you say, Mr. Headmaster, about the progress of your scout troop. I see that you have made arrangements for starting a pack of cubs also. The scout movement is one that ought specially to appeal to boys living out in a country place like Barrackpore: it is a movement which is fraught with the greatest possibilities for good for the boys, and wherever I go I do my best to encourage it. In order to assist you with equipment and camping, I shall be pleased to make a donation of Rs. 100 for this purpose.

I must congratulate those who have received prizes to-day, and to those who have not been successful this year, I wish better luck next time. I must also congratulate those boys who gave recitations. Their performances this year were quite as good as those which I had the pleasure of listening to in former years. I hope you all,—staff and pupils, have a happy and successful year in front of you.

And now it is getting late and we have still a song to hear before the gathering breaks up. I hope that you have all enjoyed yourselves here to-day.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meetings of the St. John Ambulance Association and the Red Cross Society, on 27th March 1931.

GENTLEMEN,

It is always a pleasure to attend this annual meeting as I feel that there are no charitable organisations more worthy of encouragement and support than the St. John Ambulance Association and the Red Cross Society.

We have listened to the reports of Colonel Craddock and Mrs. Cottle with much interest and satisfaction. Their record of many-sided activities indicates that the progress of the two Institutions has been satisfactorily maintained. I know that this has only been accomplished through the efforts of those who are directly responsible for the conduct of these organisations. The numbers trained show a slight decrease, but the quality is improved. The figures quoted in the annual report of the St. John Ambulance show that the interest in ambulance work amongst the Railways, Police and in the coal-fields is firmly established and I was pleased to see such a good competition at Galstaun Park. We still experience some indifference on the part of the public in some parts of Calcutta to come forward for training, but I feel that with the spread of education old prejudices will give way to modern scientific principles.

I must apologise for Lady Jackson not being here to-day, but she tells me that the St. John Ambulance Sisters' Baby Clinic is doing very good

work and its popularity continues to grow. We must acknowledge our debt to the doctors or lay lecturers who have devoted their time to instruction and examination and I must also refer to the services of Colonel Pollock, Mr. Burnett and Mrs. Cottle.

I understand that this year is the centenary year of the revival of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England. I am pleased to know that representatives of this Branch in Calcutta will be there.

The good work of the Red Cross Society continues and it is as necessary in these days of peace as it was in the days of War. They continue to help hospitals to maintain nurses to supplement their equipment and to supply comforts to the sick. This support has been fully maintained during the year, and we owe a special debt of gratitude to Rai Bahadur U. N. Brahmachari who has once again most generously made a gift of the specific of Kala-azar to the Society for the treatment of indigent cases in Calcutta and in the mofussil.

I was particularly interested to read of the plan adopted in Malda whereby a travelling exhibition has been substituted for the usual organised public show at "Sadar." During its three months' tours it was to visit 50 villages. This is excellent educative propaganda more likely to reach the people than the ordinary show at headquarters. It indicates considerable enterprise.

You appeal for more workers and subscribers and I heartily endorse this appeal. The Red Cross Society is efficiently and economically managed and any who subscribe to its funds will have the satisfaction of knowing that their contribution will be

fully utilised in the furtherance of the peace-time aims of the Red Cross Society, namely, the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering. I am very pleased to hear that the Society received support and encouragement from the Calcutta Corporation during the last year.

In offering my congratulations to the Society on the year's successful working, I know all have rendered great service and it is invidious, perhaps, to single out names for special mention, but you will no doubt desire me to pay a tribute to the work which has been done by the headquarters staff—Mrs. Cottle, Mrs. Chidley and Mr. Thompson and I should also like to mention Mr. Benthall and Colonel Craddock. I am sure they wish me to say that without the assistance of the other workers, too numerous to mention, but whose activities are chronicled in the pages of the annual report, the success which they have obtained would not have been possible. As you, Colonel Craddock, mentioned in your remarks, the expansion of the Society is only limited for want of means and these means we must try to supply.

I wish both the Society and the Association another successful year.

